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SCATHING ATTACK

Modi wasn't born in an OBC family: Rahul

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MYANMAR BORDER

Centre scraps Free Movement Regime

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RBI'S FOCUS ON PRICE STABILITY

MPC keeps interest rates unchanged

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Should only those above 16 years be admitted?

Centre's latest guidelines a welcome step

OPINION » PAGE 15

STRAKER SCALPS SIX

Australia wins thriller against Pakistan

SPORT » PAGE 22

Lauding the legend

Former Sri Lankan cricketer Muttiah Muralitharan receives the 'International Icon' award from veteran player Sunil Gavaskar and Jayen Mehta, Managing Director, Amul in the presence of tennis veteran Leander Paes during the Sportstar ACES Awards 2024 in Mumbai. K.R. DEEPAK (FULL COVERAGE: PAGE 21 & 22)

Polling ends in Pakistan

Agence France-Presse
ISLAMABAD

Polling stations closed on Thursday after millions of Pakistanis voted in an election marred by rigging allegations, with authorities suspending mobile phone services in the country.

The Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz is expected to win the most seats, with analysts saying its founder Nawaz Sharif has the blessing of the generals.

FULL REPORT
» PAGE 19

We saved economy from a crisis: govt.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman lays a White Paper on economy; it says UPA's 10 years in office created 'an inheritance of loss' for country

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

As promised in her interim Budget, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman laid a White Paper on the economy in the Lok Sabha on Thursday, outlining that the Manmohan Singh-led United Progressive Alliance's (UPA) 10 years in office created "an inheritance of loss" for the country and the Narendra Modi-led NDA government "rescued the economy from a state of crisis, despair and paralysis".

Coming two days before the 17th Lok Sabha is adjourned for the last time, the 47-page paper with a few pages of data annexures, sought to make a case that the present government had rejuvenated the economy from the UPA's policy stasis and misgovernance to infuse it with "dynamism and growth, and hope in the people". The paper attributed the few UPA years of high growth to reforms undertaken by the Atal Bihari Vajpayee-led NDA government.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 16

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman speaks in the Lok Sabha during the Budget Session of Parliament on Thursday. ANI

Cong. releases 'Black Paper' on Modi govt.

NEW DELHI
Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge on Thursday released a "Black Paper" to highlight the failures of the Narendra Modi government. Mr. Kharge described the last 10 years as a "period of injustice". » PAGE 17

NEARBY

'Light TenderSure' model for footpath redevelopment proposed

BENGALURU
To fix the poor condition of footpaths near metro stations in the city, BBMP has proposed redevelopment of footpaths using the 'Light TenderSure' model along the Green Line of Namma Metro. » PAGE 2

India biggest GitHub centre after U.S.: Nadella

BENGALURU
Microsoft Chairman and CEO Satya Nadella said India is the fastest-growing market on GitHub, a Microsoft-owned software collaboration and innovation platform, with 13.2 million developers using the platform. » PAGE 20

METROPLUS » PAGE 9

Pinarayi leads stir in Delhi against 'attack on federalism' by the Centre

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Hoping to strengthen the unity of the Opposition parties ahead of the Lok Sabha election, leaders of various political outfits joined the protest organised by the Kerala government at Jantar Mantar here on Thursday against the alleged attacks on federalism by the Centre, especially the anomalies in devolution of resources.

The meeting turned out to be a gathering of Opposition-ruled States with three Chief Ministers, MPs, Ministers and MLAs attending it demanding justice for States. Besides Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, who inaugurated the protest, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann joined the agitation. Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah had held a similar protest on Wednesday.

In his inaugural address, Mr. Vijayan said when federalism was destroyed, it would cause losses to all the States. "On top of that are the politically motivated actions against non-BJP-run States. Efforts are on by certain sections to depict the genuine demands of States as an issue of North-South divide. It is totally untrue, unfounded and baseless," he said.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 16

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan speaks during the State government's protest on Thursday. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah at the Janaspandana programme in Bengaluru on Thursday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

CM sets one-month deadline to resolve grievances

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah set a one-month deadline for officials to dispose of all the applications that were received at Janaspandana, a public grievance redressal programme, held by him in Bengaluru on Thursday. The day saw over 20,000 people from across Karnataka arriving at the Vidhana Soudha with over 12,000 petitions on various grievances. They included demands for jobs, help for medical issues, and Revenue Department-related problems.

DETAILS ON
» PAGE 10

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Shrivalli opens a new chapter in her tennis career

I am really proud with the way the tournament went for me; coming in, I had zero expectations; I beat the second seed in qualification, and the second seed in the main draw, says the 22-year-old with a sense of contentment and the determination to put in the hard yards for better results

Kamesh Srinivasan

The biggest and most decisive revelation of Indian women's tennis in the ongoing WTA Mumbai Open has been that the home players have stopped being overawed by the big stage or getting intimidated by the world-class opponents.

There is a conviction in a bunch of players about their ability to match anyone on the court and play their best.

Long ago, the former World No. 1 and multiple Grand Slam champion Mahesh Bhupathi had said, "If you don't believe that you have a chance to win, why bother stepping on court."

Shrivalli Bhamidipaty, Sahaja Yamalapalli and Rutuja Bhosale exemplify that mantra. They have the faith to match the best, and the tools to compete hard.

The 22-year-old Shrivalli always had the big game, and she capitalised on the big stage, to showcase her class.

"I am really proud with the way the tournament went for me. Coming in, I had zero expectations. I beat the second seed in qualification, and I beat the second seed in the main draw. I think it was a good show", said Shrivalli, as she put things in perspective, after losing a robust fight against 16-year-old Russian sensation, Alina Korneeva in the pre-quarterfinals of the WTA event.

"Today also, I played against one of the top juniors. Alina is a wonderful player. She has been playing so many tournaments on the Tour. She is a little more experienced than me. She handled herself better. I have a lot to learn from this match. I was happy with the way I could play and match her. I can see myself up there right now. After this match, I trust myself more," said Shrivalli.

Korneeva had all the credentials. She was world No.1 junior last year, having won the Australian Open and French Open junior singles titles. She was a semifinalist in Wimbledon. She could thrive on all surfaces and conditions, against the best in business. This year, she qualified for women's event at the Australian Open and played the second round. She has already won three women's singles titles, including one $100,000 event in which she blanked her opponent in the final.

There was a no difference between Shrivalli and Korneeva for the most part of the match that lasted two hours and 30 minutes. What made the difference was Korneeva's ability to deliver the decisive blows, with her serve and strokes at the crunch in the third set. She had won many matches against strong opponents, and thus had the experience to find her way to victory.

The statistics was of course in favour of Korneeva. The Russian teenager had eight aces and six double-faults, compared to five aces and 14 double-faults of Shrivalli. Korneeva converted seven of 19 break points, while Shrivalli converted six of 14 break-points.

The former Davis Cupper and captain of the Billie Jean King Cup team, Vishaal Uppal, who mentors Shrivalli, was on hand to watch the match and gave his thoughts.

"It was a good match. I was happy with the way Shrivalli played. There is improvement in her mentality. Lot of learning from the match. If she keeps growing like this, she will be at the WTA level soon. Tennis is a game of fine margins. Korneeva won 116 points and Shrivalli, 114," said Uppal.

Shrivalli was unfazed by the number of double-faults. She has learnt to stay focused on the point ahead.

"One thing I have learnt from all my matches is not to mess up my head with the previous point. Just focus on the point ahead. Yes, I will go back and work on my serve and make it much better. Even though I made so many double faults, it did not bother me in the match. I was trying to play the best level. My serve was a little off today, but I still managed to pull the match long," said Shrivalli.

There was more to her maturity as she handled the questions from the media with assurance, especially about the windy conditions.

"When you are in a sport like tennis, the conditions are different every day. They are same for both players. Only thing you can do is accept and move forward. Not break your head over it. If you focus on what you have to do, you will adapt pretty quick," she said.

Despite the odds against her and she not being at her best, Shrivalli was happy to have competed in the best possible way.

"I didn't give up on the last point, even though I was two match points down. I made her play two extra games. When she was serving 5-4, I still saved one match point. I did learn a lot about what I have to do. I am going to be better next time," Shrivalli stressed.

It may sound strange that the 16-year-old has more experience than the 22-year-old, but that is a fact. Korneeva is indeed accustomed to competing in the higher echelons of the game. Shrivalli is getting to learn the ropes by competing in the lower league which is a lot hard and less rewarding.

"All I want to do is keep playing a lot of tournaments. Keep focusing on competing harder. I have the belief that I am up there. But I will not let it get to my head! I will keep working hard, and probably much harder," she assured.

> All I want to do is keep playing a lot of tournaments. Keep focusing on competing harder. I have the belief that I am up there. But I will not let it get to my head! I will keep working hard, and probably much harder

With her parents backing her heartily by arranging all the expert support, Shrivalli is determined to climb up the ladder and show her game to a larger audience. She does have a delightful game which the tennis world is likely to admire soon.

Saharan... leading from the front. GETTY IMAGES

'Team bonding has worked wonders'

Press Trust of India
BENONI

The camaraderie in the dressing room has played a significant role in Indian team's dominant run in the U-19 World Cup, skipper Uday Saharan said on Thursday and vowed to bring the trophy back home.

Defending champion India has not lost a single match in the tournament. It had registered big wins and was not tested till it bumped into host South Africa in the semifinals in which they scored a narrow two-wicket win.

India has been a force to reckon with in the Under-19 World Cup, reaching the title clash seven times in last nine editions.

"It is a dream for all of us to win this tournament. Everyone gets only one Under-19 World Cup and we want to repeat the history. We also want to register our names in history. We are focused on giving our best," Saharan said.

"I would like to tell the countrymen to continue supporting us like this. We promise to give everything to bring the Cup back." India's power-packed performance in the tournament was highlighted by three 200-plus run margin wins.

"The secret to our team's good performance is team bonding. The atmosphere in the dressing room is very friendly. Everyone trusts each other and is ready to help each other. That is why the performance graph has been consistently good," said Saharan, who spent his early days in Sri Ganganagar before shifting to the border town of Fazilka in Punjab.

"We are not focusing on rival team, we are concentrating on our own game. We have made a match-by-match strategy and are taking every match seriously," Saharan, who has scored 389 runs in six matches so far, said.

Asked if the Indian colt would have revenge on their minds if they play against Australia since the senior team had lost to them in the ODI World Cup final last year, Saharan said, "I am not thinking anything like that. We are focusing on our game and we have to give our best. We are playing according to the match conditions. Every match is important because it is the World Cup and all the teams are good." A lot of stalwarts in the senior national team have emerged from the Under-19 World Cup like Mohammad Kaif, Virat Kohli, Shubman Gill and Ravindra Jadeja.

Saharan refused comparisons with these stars, saying he won't take pressure of legacy.

"I never think about it. I don't think about the past. I just think about how I can give my best for the team and how to get the best out of the team." Chasing a target of 245 runs in the semi-final against South Africa, Saharan pulled the team out of trouble after it had lost four wickets for just 32 runs.

Paris Olympics will be challenging and I need to be smarter: Sindhu

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Set to return after an injury break, two-time Olympic medallist P.V. Sindhu is aware that the road to Paris will be "challenging" and she needs to be "smarter" in her pursuit of the coveted gold in the French capital.

Former World champion Sindhu has been enduring a lean patch. She suffered injury setbacks and a dip in form in the last 18 months.

She had a stress fracture on her left ankle during the successful 2022 CWG campaign and later sustained another injury on the left knee during the French Open in October 2023, forcing her out for three months.

"I would say this Olympics is going to be a different experience because the 2016 and 2020 Games were very different. Paris will be more challenging but at the same time, I have much more experience and I will have to be much smarter this time," Sindhu said. "In the women's circuit, players in the top 10-15 are tough. It is important to be focused and have a strategy so that you can switch to Plan B if Plan A doesn't work. It is important to stay calm as you can go blank sometimes. It is important to have a strong mindset."

Desperate to find her form back after a series of low results, Sindhu parted ways with Korean coach Park Taesang early last year.

She trained with SAIs Vidhi Chaudhary and then Malaysia's former All-England champion Muhammad Hafiz Hashim in July but success continued to elude her. Then former All England champion Prakash Padukone reached out to her and soon she shifted base to Bengaluru. She is currently training under Indonesia's Agus Santoso at the Prakash Padukone Badminton Academy (PPBA), which operates out of the Padukone-Dravid Centre for Sports Excellence.

> I would say this Olympics is going to be a different experience than the 2016 and 2020 Games. It will be more challenging

"I have a new trainer, physio, nutritionist, coach, and mentor. Everything is new and I am happy how they have been supporting and helping me from where I am and where I should be in the next couple of months," Sindhu, who will return to action at the Badminton Asia team championships in Malaysia from February 13 to 18, said.

"I am fortunate to work with Prakash sir because he is a legend and his mentoring helps. His training methods and ideas are superb. As for Agus, I have known him for a long time when he was training our men's players. We will have to see how I do, it has been just a month. So things will be good moving forward. I am back to my full fitness and I am looking forward to the Asian team championships."

Sindhu said: "Yes. After the injury, it is important to focus on physical, mental, and technical aspects as well on the skills. I have not played tournaments in the last three months, so I will come to know where I am after I start playing tournaments. It has been pretty good so far."

TBM 'Bhadra' achieves breakthrough at K.G. Halli metro station

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The tunnel boring machine (TBM) 'Bhadra' of the Namma Metro achieved a breakthrough at K.G. Halli metro station on Thursday evening.

Commencing its journey in February 2023, it successfully tunnelled a distance of 1185.8 metres from Venkateshpura.

The event was attended by Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar as Bhadra achieved its second milestone. The initial breakthrough occurred on June 24, 2021, when it was launched from Venkateshpura to construct an 841.1-metre southbound tunnel leading to Tannery Road. The tunnelling process concluded on December 16, 2022.

Subsequently, the second phase involved the excavation of a 1,186-metre northbound tunnel towards K.G. Halli, which commenced on February 16, 2023, and was successfully completed on Thursday.

Bhadra is set to be recovered and deployed for its last tunneling 935-metre towards Nagavara from K.G. Halli – the commencement of the third and final drive, marking the culmination of the Pink Line.

Under Phase 2 of the project, the Reach 6 line is from Kalena Agrahara to Nagawara totalling 21.26 km with 18 stations. It consists of an Elevated section of 7.50 km with 6 stations from Kalena Agrahara to Tavarekere and Underground section of 13.76 km with 12 Stations from Diary Circle to Nagavara.

According to Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL), Pink Line will be operational in 2025.

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar looking at the breakthrough of the tunnel boring machine at K.G. Halli metro station in Bengaluru on Thursday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

> The Phase 2 Reach 6 of the metro work is progressing well and it will be thrown open to the public in 2025. The total length of the tunnel in this route is 13.76 km and the stretch between Dairy Circle and Nagavara will have a total of 12 stations.
>
> **D.K. SHIVAKUMAR,**
> Deputy Chief Minister

DKS on metro work

Mr. Shivakumar announced that the Reach 6 of Phase 2 of Namma Metro in Bengaluru would be ready in 2025.

Speaking to the reporters after witnessing the event he said, "The Phase 2 Reach 6 of the metro work is progressing well and it will be thrown open to the public in 2025. The total length of the tunnel in this route is 13.76 km and the stretch between Dairy Circle and Nagavara will have a total of 12 stations. The total length of the route from Kalena Agrahara to Nagavara is 21.26 km.

"Nine tunnel drilling machines are functioning currently, of which 7 are nearing completion. About 75% of work is complete on the 12 stations in the route.The interchange stations at Jayadeva Hospital, MG Road, Cantonment and Nagavara are the major stations in this route. Namma Metro has maintained international quality all through and it is better than Delhi metro. We have not compromised on the quality at any stage," he added.

Asked about the Airport metro line, he said, "The work is progressing fast. We have instructed them to build two levels wherever pillars are not cast yet. One level will be used for the road and the other for the metro. The BBMP and BMRCL will jointly work on this. The cost of the flyover will be borne by the BBMP while BMRCL will take care of the metro costs. This is likely to help resolve the traffic crisis in Bengaluru. I had seen such projects in Nagpur, we will implement metro plus road lines in the future metro lines." Speaking about the delayed completion of the airport line by 2024, he said, "about 98% of land acquisition is complete. As much as 53% of the construction work is completed and work on the 17 elevated metro stations is in progress."

Mr. Shivakumar further said that the government has directed BMRCL to draft Detailed Project Reports for the Tumakuru, Anekal, and Bidadi routes.

BBMP proposes 'Light TenderSure' model for footpath redevelopment

BBMP officials says this initiative will primarily focus on major roads that connect Green Line metro stations. The project aims to enhance last-mile connectivity for public transport

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

To fix the poor condition of footpaths near metro stations in the city, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has now proposed the redevelopment of footpaths using the 'Light TenderSure' model along the Green Line of Namma Metro.

The BBMP officials said that this initiative will primarily focus on major roads that connect Green Line stations (Sampige Road, Rajajinagar, Mahalakshmi Layout, Peenya, Jalahalli, Dasarahalli, and Nagasandra), to improve last-mile connectivity and creating pedestrian-friendly footpaths. Officials said that the BBMP will allocate ₹60 crore for the improvement of footpaths on roads connecting the metro stations within the West and the South divisions of the BBMP limits.

A file photo of the poor condition of the footpath near Jayanagar metro station in Bengaluru.

"The footpaths leading to metro stations are not in a good condition. Hence, we have decided to take up footpath redevelopment under the Light TenderSure model which is a simpler version of the regular TenderSure footpath," a senior civic official said.

Officials further explained that the 'Light TenderSure' model involves widening footpaths and remodelling drains, but it excludes the installation of underground cables found in the regular TenderSure model, contributing to a quicker completion of the project.

The project aims to enhance last-mile connectivity for public transport by creating broader and more functional footpaths. The officials hope that this kind of road will improve pedestrian experience and will encourage people to choose walking as their preferred mode of transport. Last year, under the BBMP Budget, ₹450 crore was earmarked for the comprehensive development of 350 km of arterial and sub-arterial roads on the 'Light TenderSure' model.

Silver jubilee celebrations from today

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Centre for Social Action – We Care (CSA) Christ (Deemed to be University), to commemorate its 25 years of service, is organising a two-day silver jubilee celebration on Friday and Saturday, on its main campus, near Dairy Circle, Hosur Road at 9 a.m.

Fr. Jose C.C., the Vice Chancellor CHRIST (Deemed to be University), will preside over the celebration. The valedictory programme will be held on Saturday with CSA alumni meet. The core strategy of CSA is to facilitate students to internalise socio-economic-cultural and environmental issues faced by the disadvantaged sections of society and contribute to sustainable action.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring to the notice of the general public that our client **MR.KARTHIK GOVINDRAJ KANNAN and MR.RAJESH KANNAN** both sons of Mr.G.Kannan are intending to purchase the schedule property mentioned hereunder from **MR.D.HARRY ROYAL** S/o. Mr.Arokia Dass; any person/s objecting for the proposed purchase or are having any right, title, interest or any type of claim over the scheduled property is hereby called upon to file their objections/claims what so ever along with documentary proof on or before **7 days** from the date of publication of this notice with the under mentioned advocate failing which; our clients shall proceed and complete the sale transaction with the above stated person.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the Residential Property bearing Municipal Corporation **No. 15/5,** PID No.86-35-15/5, Dhakle No.1673132 Comprised in Property No.84/5, Situated at **Lingarajapuram,** Measuring East to West:10.805182 Meters (East : 40 Feet, West:40 Feet), North to South:10.728981 Meters (North :32 Feet and South:38 Feet), in all measuring 115.9286 Sq Mts, BBMP, Ward No.54, along with a residential house with **130.900327 Sq Mts** standing thereon standing thereon, and bounded on the:

East by : Private Property; West by : Road; North by : Road; South by : Private Property;

C.K.V.K. LAW ASSOCIATES
Mr. VENKATESH CHANDRAN M.A., L.L.B.
Advocates & Legal Consultants
Bangalore-43. M: 9845846428, 9108784843

IN THE COURT OF THE HON'BLE XI ADDL. CITY CIVIL AND SESSIONS JUDGE, AT BENGALURU (CCH–8)

P & SC. No. 682/2023

BETWEEN:

1.SREEKANTA MYLARAIYA
Aged around 74 Years
S/o Mylaraiya R
#310/1, 6th A Cross
OMBR Layout, Bengaluru North
Kalyan Nagar
Bengaluru - 560 043

2.SHRUTHI SREEKANTA
Aged around 42 years
D/o Sreekanta Mylaraiya
Residing at 5350
Calderwood Ln
San Jose CA - 95 118.
Also at No-235/B, 3rd Block
56th Cross, Rajaginagar
Bangalore-560 010
Represented by GPA Holder

Mr. Subrata Nayak
S/o Samir Kumar Nayak
Aged around 39 years
Presently residing at C-204
Oasis Nine, 1st Main, 7th Cross
ISRO Layout, Stage 2
Bengaluru - 560 078, Karnataka.

3.SURAJ SREEKANTA
Aged around 39 years
S/o Sreekanta Mylaraiya
Residing at 1417
Merrywood Dr, San Jose, CA - 95 118
Also at No-310/1, 6th A Cross
OMBR Layout, Bengaluru North
Kalyan Nagar
Bengaluru - 560 043
Represented by GPA Holder

Mr. Subrata Nayak.
S/o Samir Kumar Nayak
Aged around 39 years
Presently residing at C-204
Oasis Nine, 1st Main, 7th Cross
ISRO Layout, Stage 2
Bengaluru - 560 078, Karnataka

...PETITIONERS

AND

NIL **...RESPONDENT**

PUBLIC NOTICE UNDER ORDER V RULE 20 OF THE CODE OF CIVIL PROCEDURE, 1908

.HEREAS, the Petitioners, who are the legal heirs of deceased Mrs. Vijaya Sreekanta, have instituted a petition for Succession Certificate under Section 372 of Indian Succession Act therein for issuance of Succession Certificate in respect of security investment made by deceased Mrs. Vijaya Sreekanta in Alternative Investment Scheme namely Invest Corp Score Fund (previously known as IDFC Score Fund) and the current outstanding balance of the said securities value is approx of Rs.45,00,000/- (Rupees Forty Five Lakh Only) as on 30-11-2023. Interested parties are called upon to hereby appear before this Hon'ble City Civil and Session Judge at Bengaluru (CCH-8) on 03-04-2024 at 11.00 A.M. in person or by a pleader/advocate duly instructed as to why the relief prayed for should not be granted. In case of default, petition will be heard and determined in your absence.

SCHEDULE

Current securities value of 4000 units which amounts to Rs.45,00,000/- (Rupees Forty Lakh Only) as on 30-11-2023 invested in Alternative Investment Scheme namely Invest Corp Score Fund (previously known as IDFC Score Fund) and was allotted Folio number 20573 (Class A2), which is in the name of deceased Mrs. Vijaya Sreekanta.

Given under my hand and seal of the court this 1st day of February 2024.

By order of the court

Asst Registrar
City civil court
Ambedkar veedhi
Bengaluru

Address for service
UDAY SHANKAR ASSOCIATES
Advocates
Fortune Chambers
1st Floor, No.8, Lalbagh Road
Richmond Circle, Bengaluru - 560 027
Phone No. : 080 - 4141 0006, 4141 0007

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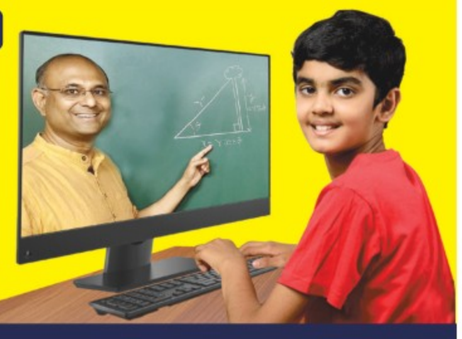

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PUBLIC NOTICE

My client had negotiated to purchase the BDA Immovable Property from **Mr.CHANDRAIAH. N.,** S/o. (Late) K.M. Nanjundaiah (alias) K.M. Nanjundappa, **bearing Site No. 309, carved out of Survey No.60/1,** situated in **K. Narayanapura Village, Arkavathi Layout,5th Block, Layout, formed by BDA, Bangalore, measuring 360 square meters or 3875 square feet,** bounded on the : **East by : Site No.310; West by : Site No.309A, North by : Private Property, South by : Road.**

If any person/s are having any objections or claims in respect of the above sale the same be lodged with documentary proof within **7 days** from today failing which our client will get the Sale Deed registered and it shall be deemed there are no claims of any nature whatsoever.

K.M.A.PERES, VIREN MICHAEL PERES,
Advocates, No.46/1-1, Wheeler Road,
Bangalore- 560005, Mobile: 9845000414.
E-mail. peresoffice@gmail.com

BANGALORE METROPOLITAN TRANSPORT CORPORATION
Central Offices, Mechanical Engg. Dept., K.H. Road, Shanthinagar, Bengaluru-27, Tele No: 080-22537519.

TENDER NO: BMTC/2023-24/IND0051 Dated: 08.02.2024

NOTICE INVITING SHORT-TERM TENDER (Through e-procurement mode only)

(1) BMTC invites Tender through E-Procurement Portal for supply of 820 Nos. Diesel fuelled BS-VI fully built city type buses. **(2)** Last Date for Bid Submission in e-procurement portal on **17.02.2024** at **17:30 Hours.** Further, any addendum/corrigendum in respect of changes in calendar of events, scope, other tender terms & conditions etc., will be uploaded/Published through e-portal only. **NOTE:** Interested Bidders need to register in the GoK e-procurement portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** for details. In case of further assistance, the bidders may contact e-procurement Help Desk for support Ph: **080-46010000, or 080-68948777** or email at **eprocurementhelpdesk@gmail.com** Interested suppliers may also contact e-procurement cell for training on bid submission. E-mail to **eprocurementhelpdesk@gmail.com** for further information if required.

Sd/- CHIEF MECHANICAL ENGINEER (Tender Inviting Authority)

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕ ಇಲಾಖೆ
"ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕ ಭವನ" ಡೈರಿ ಸರ್ಕಲ್, ಬನ್ನೇರುಘಟ್ಟ ರಸ್ತೆ,
ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು–560 029, ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : 29753078
ಇಮೇಲ್: labour.commissioner42@gmail.com
ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್: karmikaspandana@karnataka.gov.in

ಸಂ: ಎನ್‌ಜಿಒ–03/ಸಿಆರ್–31/2023–24 & ಸಂ: ಎನ್‌ಜಿಒ–02/ಸಿಆರ್–40/2023–24 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 08.02.2024

ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕ ಆಯುಕ್ತರು, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಇವರು ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕ ಇಲಾಖೆಗೆ ಹೊರಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಆಧಾರದ ಮೇಲೆ ಸಿಬ್ಬಂದಿಗಳನ್ನು ಪೂರೈಸಲು ಸೂಕ್ತ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯನ್ನು ಆಯ್ಕೆ ಮಾಡುವ ಉದ್ದೇಶಕ್ಕಾಗಿ, ಇ–ಆಡಳಿತ ಇಲಾಖೆಯ, ಇ–ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣಾ ವೇದಿಕೆಯ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಎರಡು ಪ್ರತ್ಯೇಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಬಿಡ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 04.03.2024 ರ ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 5.30 ಗಂಟೆ ಆಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಮತ್ತು ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಇ–ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣಾ ವೇದಿಕೆಯ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/–
ಆಯುಕ್ತರು
ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕ ಇಲಾಖೆ

ವಾ.ಸಾ.ಸಂ.ಇ/ವಾಪ್ರ/3475/ಆಕಾರ್/2023–24

Telangana State Industrial Development Corporation Limited
(A State Government Undertaking)
Regd. Office: 5-9-68/b,1 Floor, Parisrama Bhavanam, Basheerbagh, Hyderabad - 500 004, Telangana State, India, Phone No: (040)-23298791
Cell No.9581229642 & 9848111536, Email: tsidcltd@gmail.com

Sale of Prime Assets on "as is where basis" u/s. 29 of SFC's Act., 1951

Name of Unit: M/s. SLT Power & Infrastructure Projects (P) Limited: Sy.No.542 at Bhoodan Pochampally (V&M), Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District, Telangana State
Brief description of Assets: (a) Land Ac.6-10 Guntas Buildings : Built up area 8,500 Sq.Ft
Start Price: Rs.1016.00 Lakhs **EMD :** Rs.101.60 Lakhs **e-auction Date:** 21.02.2024
The Prospective bidders may inspect the property on any working day from **11 AM to 4.00 PM** till **20.02.2024**. The Auction (bidding) will be conducted by M/s. MSTC (Selling Agency) through e-auction
For details of terms and conditions of the above sale, please refer
https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/indexnew.jsp and
https://www.msteindia.co.in Contact No.**040-23301039**
Date : 01.02.2024 Sd/-
DIPR No. 918-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT./1/2023-24 **Vice Chairman & Managing Director**

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, Mahadevapura Division, Bengaluru - 560 048.

No.EE/MDP/TN/14/2023-24 Date:07.02.2024

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER
(Through GOK KPP Portal only)

The Executive Engineer, Mahadevapura Division, invites the item rate tenders from eligible contractors for various construction works detailed in the table below.

Reserved for General Category

Sl. No.	Ward No.	Est. Cost (Rs. in lakhs)	EMD (in Rs.)	No. of Works
1	97	5.00 & 25.00	25,000 & 50,000	02
2	98	5.00 to 25.00	25,000 to 50,000	04
3	99	5.00 to 15.00	12,500 to 30,000	03
4	100	5.00 to 25.00	25,000 to 50,000	03
5	101	5.00 & 25.00	12,500 & 50,000	02
6	102	5.00 to 25.00	12,500 to 50,000	04
7	103	5.00 to 30.00	12,500 to 60,000	03
8	104	5.00 to 30.00	12,500 to 60,000	03
9	105	15.00	37,500	01
Reserved for SC Category				
10	97	30.00	30,000	01
11	100	15.00	18,750	01
12	101	15.00	18,750	01
13	105	15.00 & 25.00	18,750 & 25,000	02
Reserved for ST Category				
14	99	25.00	25,000	01
15	101	15.00	18,750	01
			Total Works	**32**

1) Tender documents may be downloaded from GOK KPP portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** **2)** Pre-Bid Meeting : **17.02.2024 at 11.00 pm**. 3) Last date for receipt of tenders **: 21.02.2024 upto 4.00 pm 3)** Opening of Technical / Financial Bid: **22.02.2024 at 4.30 pm**. Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours & also from website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Mahadevapura Division.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring to the notice of the general public that our client **COL.PRAKASH MR. PRAKASH KUMAR N** S/o. Mr. Ranganayakalu N is intending to purchase the schedule property mentioned hereunder from **MRS.GEETHA RAMANATHAN** W/o. Mr.Ramesh Ramanathan; any person/s objecting for the proposed purchase or are having any right, title, interest or any type of claim over the scheduled property is hereby called upon to file their objections/claims what so ever along with documentary proof on or before **7 days** from the date of publication of this notice with the under mentioned advocate failing which; our clients shall proceed and complete the sale transaction with the above stated person.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of Property bearing **Site No.9,** Comprised in Property No.102/2, Situated at: **Kada Agrahara Village, Bidarahalli Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk,** Measuring East to West 50 Feet, North to South 30 Feet, totally Measuring **1500 Sq Feet,** and bounded on the:

East by : Road; West by : Site No.14; North by : Site No.08; South by : Site No.10;

C.K.V.K. LAW ASSOCIATES
Mr. VENKATESH CHANDRAN M.A., L.L.B.
Advocates & Legal Consultants
Bangalore-43. M: 9845846428, 9108784843

MANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Corporate Office, MESCOM BHAVANA, Kavoor Cross Road, Bejai, Mangaluru - 575 004.
Ph: 0824-2885795, CIN: U40109 KA 2002 SGC 030425

No. E-101303 **Date: 08.02.2024**

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT PORTAL ONLY)

MESCOM invites Short Term tender for Manufacture & Supply of following materials:

Tender No.	Material Proposed to be Procured	Quantity
MESCOM/2023-24/IND0061	70 SQ MM LEAD WIRE	80,000 Mtrs
MESCOM/2023-24/IND0062	95 SQ MM LEAD WIRE	1,00,000 Mtrs
MESCOM/2023-24/IND0063	120 SQ MM LEAD WIRE	85,000 Mtrs
MESCOM/2023-24/IND0064	240 SQ MM LEAD WIRE	28,000 Mtrs

The interested eligible bidders may log on to **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **09.02.2024**

Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Ele.)(Proc.)

For Power Related Complaints & Assistance Call Toll Free Number 1912

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,
PUBLIC WORKS DEPT. DIVISION, GADAG.
Phone No : 08372-238782 Fax No. 08372-237268
E.Mail : eepwdgad@gmail.com
No:EEPWDGDG PB-1:Different Head:2023-24/4769
Dated : 07-02-2024

Tender Notification

The Executive Engineer, Public works department. Division,Gadag invites itemwise tenders from eligible tenderers of **11** work of total amount of Rs **-139.00** Lakh (Min estimate amount: **Rs. 03** Lakhs to Max Estimate Amount: **57.00** Lakhs) for the Different Head of account on behalf of the Hon'able Governor of Karnataka as per Standard Bid Document KW-1 & 3 through http://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in/

(a) Last Date for Clarification up to : **15-02-2024,** (b) Last Date for Receipt of Tenders **: 16-02-2024**(c) Opening of Technical / Financial Bid Date : **17-02-2024** (d) Opening of Financial Bid Date **: 19-02-2024**

Work Indent No : 7500 Call-2, 7499SC Call-2, 7498Call-3 7497 Call-2, 7492 Call-2, 7489 Call-2, 7290Call-2 and 7112 Call-2, 5868-Call-2, 6114- Call-2, and 8470

The tenderers are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified in clause 3 of the instructions to tenderers to qualify for award of the contract. For further information contact the office of The Executive Engineer, PWD Division Gadag **(08372-238782)** during office hours.

GST shall be paid separately as per prevailing Government Order. The increase in GST shall not be paid in the extended period of contract for which the contractor alone is responsible for delay as determined by the authority while granting the extension of time.

DIPR/Gadag/KSMCA/521/2023-24 **Sd/- Executive Engineer, P.W.D. Division, Gadag.**

Government of Karnataka
(Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Department)
Office of the Executive Engineer, Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Division, Shivamogga

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through Kppp-procurement)

No. EE/RWSS/Dvn/SMG/TE/JJM/Kppp-Proc/2023-24/2258 **Date : 05.02.2024**

On behalf of Governor of Karnataka and as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Rules 2000, tenders are invited to undertake the following works under Jal Jeevan Mission in the limits of Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Division, Shivamogga.

Indent Nos: (1) 7596 (2) 7595 (3) 7597 (4) 7680 (5) 714 CALL-4.

Tender details, conditions and corrigendum or changes are available in website **https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** Eligible bidders shall submit their bid and documents through above e-portal only. Few conditions of the tender : **(1)** The last date for receipt of tenders from contractors :**12.02.2024** & **13.02.2024** at **5.30 P M. (2)** Date of Opening of Single Cover Financial bid : **14.02.2024** & **15.02.2024** at **11.30 A M (3)** Date of opening of Double Cover Technical bid : **14.02.2024** & **15.02.2024** at **11.30 A M. (4)** Date of opening of Double Cover Financial bid : **16.02.2024** & **17.02.2024** at **11.30 A M. (5)** Specified time period for completion of works : 7595, 7596, 2 months 7597, 7680 & 714CALL-4, 6 months

Sd/-
Executive Engineer, Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Division, Shivamogga.

DIPR/SMG/No.48-02/Zenkar/2023-24

With CRISPR poised to revolutionise therapy, a pause to consider ethics

The CRISPR system in bacteria serves as a warehouse for past infections by storing a part of the viral genetic material and incorporating it into its own, so the next time it is attacked, the bacteria is capable of recognising the virus and destroying it

Soujanya Padikkal

"We will each write a ghost story", said Lord Byron; and his proposition was acceded to. And so on a cold and rainy supposedly summer night in 1816, four friends inspired by German ghost stories, gathered to write one. Among them, a young Mary Shelley, consumed by the idea of creating a story that would "curdle the blood" of her readers, ended up with a novel titled *Frankenstein*.

With *Frankenstein* 200 years in the past, the possibility of creating such life is a reality. With the first gene editing technology securing approval for the treatment of sickle cell anemia and beta-thalassemia, we transcend into a new revolutionary phase. The possibilities are endless.

Casgevy and Lyfgenia, the two cell-based gene therapies approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for sickle cell anemia treatment and beta-thalassemia utilise the Nobel-winning CRISPR/Cas 9 genome editing technology.

Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats (CRISPR), a feature of the bacterial immune system, forms the basis for this technology. In a nutshell, the system in bacteria serves as a warehouse for past infections by storing a part of the viral genetic material and incorporating it into its own, so the next time it is attacked, the bacteria is capable of recognising the virus and destroying it. The bacteria, in short, is immunised when it employs the CRISPR system. The CRISPR-Cas system is effective and easy to manipulate. Researchers have adapted it as a tool to cut, delete, or add DNA sequences at precise locations, opening different windows to treat genetic disorders, develop drought-resistant plants, modify food crops, or experiment with de-extinction projects involving the woolly mammoth and the dodo.

Sickle-cell anemia (SCA) is an inherited disorder where red blood cells contort to a sickle or crescent shape because of defective hemoglobin, restricting its ability to carry oxygen. According to an article published in the *Indian Journal of Medical Research* over 20 million people live with SCA in India and it is predominantly seen in the scheduled tribes (ST) and scheduled caste (SC) populations where the majority are economically backward.

Casgevy costs $ 2.2 million per patient to treat sickle-cell anemia. Indian researchers are working on indigenous treatment involving CRISPR genome editing to reduce the cost. "For India, the issue of pricing is a very important consideration, since it impacts equitable distribution. It is little early to determine now, if production costs can be reduced, or there can be alternative pricing models, or coverage through healthcare, insurance, negotiations with pharma sector, policies around commercialisation for sustainable and affordable solutions", explained Roli Mathur, Head, Bioethics Unit, Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) over mail.

Gene editing technology is a revolution in treatment of disease. GETTY IMAGES

For many people living with the disease accessing even hydroxyurea, a medicine used as a first-line therapy for SCD, is a challenge in India. While researchers are doing their best to find a cost-effective treatment, there are chances of it still being beyond reach for most of them. "When you have such a blockbuster therapy, you also have to think about how you can make it accessible and many people around the world including us are working along those lines", said Debojyoti Chakraborty, Principal Scientist at CSIR Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology (IGIB).

The tribal population which is affected the most has limited healthcare access for various reasons: one being that they live in remote areas where there is a scarcity of healthcare professionals. "There is a need to provide primary care to deal with this debilitating disease that the community is suffering from. If you don't do primary care then how are you going to do tertiary care?" asked Amar Jesani, a medical doctor, independent researcher, and teacher of bioethics and public health.

The Sickle Cell Anemia Elimination Mission launched in India on 1st July 2023 aims to strengthen the existing healthcare system and improve primary, secondary, and tertiary healthcare teams. "Equitability is a factor which has to be accessed both at the local and global level. The government has a lot of power and we have seen how they can actually make things accessible to everyone like they did for vaccines. A similar modality would have to be put into place where you have partners from scientists, governments, and industries come together to see how you can get these kinds of therapies out", said Dr. Chakraborty.

> Casgevy costs $ 2.2 million per patient to treat sickle-cell anemia. Indian researchers are working on treatment involving CRISPR genome editing to reduce the cost

Indian regulation

The decision-making process for CRISPR research is governed by the existing legal and regulatory framework. The New Drugs and Clinical Trials Rules (2019) classify Gene Therapy Products (GTPs), including those developed through CRISPR, as new drugs, subjecting them to a thorough approval process by the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO). Additional requirements will be determined following the ICMR-DBT National guidelines for GTPs and oversight by bodies such as the Review Committee on Genetic Manipulation (RCGM) and the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) as applicable. Moreover, all biomedical and health research in India must adhere to the ICMR National Ethical Guidelines for Biomedical and Health Research Involving Human Participants, 2017.

Germline editing and CRISPR

Apart from the health equity and disparities associated with CRISPR, one of the biggest controversies has been about germline editing. Most of the scientific community supports the use of CRISPR to treat monogenic diseases. Germline editing is heritable and more complex and begs the question if it is even moral to subject an individual to heritable changes, even if it is to treat debilitating genetic conditions.

As of now, genome editing is restricted to somatic cells and there is a moratorium on germline editing. But when the advantages surpass the drawbacks, where will science draw the line with genome editing?

Chinese scientist He Jiankui took the scientific world by storm when he announced that he had edited healthy embryos in an attempt to minimise girls' predisposition to HIV infection. This was in 2018 despite having guidelines against germline editing and at a time when studies had no clear-cut answers to the outcome of such an intervention. We still fully do not understand the long-term effects of CRISPR editing.

"It's not a technology which is absolutely 100% full-fledgedly understood. [Germline editing] can come slowly, progressively once we have totally understood the pros and cons of the gene editing technology", explained Dr. Chakraborty.

Guidelines, laws, and dialogues around ethical, societal, and safety issues need to evolve parallelly as technology evolves. "Most countries including India have forbidden genome editing in human embryos through legal instruments or through guidelines. In India every Institution involved in biomedical research is required to follow ICMR National Ethical Guidelines and register with the ethics committee which monitors research (including around gene editing)", said Dr. Mathur.

The gene editing technology has also raised concerns regarding it becoming a commodity that wealthy parents will exploit to improve the fate of their children not only for therapeutic purposes but for genetic enhancement. "There is a chance that if we do not have a way to distribute these therapies to different parts of the world where it is needed through whatever mechanism, then you would have a division in the world because the therapy is there but the affordability isn't there", Dr. Chakraborty added.

Public engagement

Also given our incomplete knowledge about the long-term effects of CRISPR, researchers and policy-makers are considering real-world implications in the long run. The method is here to stay and the media and public need to engage in open dialogues to prevent the spread of misinformation. "Institutions undertaking cutting-edge research must also come up with best practices in community engagement, education, and timely and truthful communication to build trust among all stakeholders with a special focus on communities", according to Dr. Mathur.

Written in an era before DNA was discovered, Frankenstein became an inspiration for science fiction and was one of the first novels to question the outcome of interfering with nature. It served as a reminder for scientists to proceed with caution and explore the moral consequences of scientific innovation. We have come a long way since then. Unlike the scientist in the novel, scientists today are aware of the power they hold with a technology that can change the genetic code and the societal implications for it, while also holding accountability for violating guidelines as seen in 2018.

At the end of the day, CRISPR is a tool whose endgame is determined by how humans utilise it. "Unless ethics is at the fore, even if there is scientific success, societal acceptance cannot be guaranteed. There needs to be enough commitment to integrate ethics in research work for the technology to have a positive impact", explained Dr. Mathur.

(The author is a freelance content provider based in Hyderabad. souji_padikkal@yahoo.co.in)

Monkeys can get infected and a dead monkey signals an outbreak. GETTY IMAGES

Kyasanur Forest Disease: the assault of the tick

Sathish G. T.

Since January 1 this year, two people have died due to Kyasanur Forest Disease (KFD), a viral infection, in Karnataka. The number of deaths reported due to the disease since 1956, when it was noticed in the forests of Shivamogga district, is above 560. The number of cases in Malnad's districts – Shivamogga, Uttara Kannada and Chikkamagaluru – has been increasing, forcing the Health and Family Welfare Department to take measures to contain its spread. Since January 1, the Department of Health and Family Welfare has conducted 2,567 tests and 68 people have been found positive.

What is KFD? The disease was first noticed in the Kysanur Forest area of Sorab Taluk in Shivamogga district in 1956, and was named after the region. It is also known as monkey fever, as monkeys also get infected. In fact, the death of a monkey serves as a warning of a KFD outbreak. The scientists concluded that the virus must have been present in the forests of Malnad region. It became active due to ecological changes.

The disease spreads through ticks. Primates that come in contact with infected ticks contract the disease. Human beings who visit the same forest area can contract the disease

The disease spreads through ticks. Primates that come in contact with infective ticks contract the disease. Human beings who visit the same forest area can contract the disease. Normally, the transmission begins from late November to June. It peaks between December and March, according to studies. A blood test is done to identify if someone has KFD.

Symptoms start to appear three to eight days after the bite, of an infective tick. Fever, redness of the eyes, severe headache, and body pain are common symptoms. Three-four days after the onset of initial symptoms, the patient may have gastro-intenstinal symptoms. In severe cases, bleeding from the nose is noted. There is no specific treatment, doctors handle the symptoms, and monitor the vitals daily. An attempt to use a vaccine was given up after studies showed it to be ineffective. The ICMR is said to be in consultation with Indian Immunologicals for development of a vaccine.

For nearly 15 years (up to 1971), the disease was confined to Shivamogga district. It was noticed in Uttara Kannada district in 1972. In 1980, cases were reported in Koppa, Chikkamagaluru. Two years later it was found in Dakshina Kannada. Cases were late reported in Chamarajanagar (2012), Belagavi district (2016), Gadag (2017), Mysuru, and Hassan (2019). The virus has been found in other states too. It was detected in dead monkeys in the Nilgiri district of Tamil Nadu in 2012. Six human cases were reported in Wayanad and Malappuram, Kerala in 2013-14. An outbreak was reported in North Goa district in 2015-16. Maharashtra reported cases in 2016.

The forest department is distributing DEPA oil, a tick repellent, to families who have to go into the forest. The State Government has also decided to provide free treatment to patients

(sathish.gt@thehindu.co.in)

Self-reporting of mental disorders in India 'lower than burden'

Afshan Yasmeen

Social determinants play a vital role in access to healthcare and financial protection among individuals with mental disorders in India. Studies have shown that India needs to address gaps in access and financial protection for individuals with mental disorders to achieve Universal Health Coverage (UHC).

Highlighting concerning trends regarding the reporting of mental disorders in India, a recent study by researchers from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Jodhpur, revealed that self-reporting rates for mental health problems were notably low. The study - based on the 75th Round National Sample Survey (NSS) 2017-2018 - revealed that the self-reporting of mental illness was less than 1% in India.

The NSS completely relied on self-reporting by individuals. The data was collected from 5,55,115 individuals (3,25,232 from rural areas and 2,29,232 from urban areas), in 8,077 villages and 6,181 urban areas. These were randomly selected. It also included 283 outpatient and 374 hospitalisation cases involving mental disorders in India.

A survey by NIMHANS indicated that around 150 million individuals had mental issues needing treatment. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

Published in the *International Journal of Mental Health Systems,* the study has been co-authored by Alok Ranjan, Assistant Professor, School of Liberal Arts (SoLA), IIT Jodhpur and Jewel Crasta, School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences, The Ohio State University, Columbus, USA.

The 2017 National Mental Health Survey (NMHS) by NIMHANS indicated that around 150 million individuals had mental illness that required treatment, in India.

The NMHS – conducted on a nationally representative sample of 34,802 individuals, sampled from 12 States of India – used a structured diagnostic instrument which is equivalent to clinical assessment.

Significant expenses

The IIT-Jodhpur study threw light on the significant out-of-pocket expenses incurred by individuals seeking mental health services. This is largely due to reliance on the private sector. The study was based on logistic regression models.

The findings revealed that individuals with higher incomes were 1.73 times more inclined to report health problems compared to those with lower incomes, uncovering a socioeconomic divide.

The average out-of-pocket expenditures for both hospitalisation and outpatient care were significantly higher in the private sector than in the public sector, the study pointed out.

Economic burden

Girish N. Rao, professor of Epidemiology at NIMHANS, who was one of the co-Principal Investigators of the NMHS-2017, said the economic burden of mental disorders in India is huge.

In the absence of State or insurance coverage for most families, a large proportion of payments for treatment are out-of-pocket, he said.

"The NMHS revealed that the economic burden was reportedly higher in middle aged individuals, where disability due to mental illness significantly affected their productivity resulting in a sizeable economic impact in a cumulative manner, on the country. Poverty and disability catalysed by poor access to care and treatment significantly affects the quality of life of persons with mental illness as well as their families. The survey showed that families had to spend nearly Rs 1,000 - Rs 1,500 a month mainly for treatment and travel to access care. The hidden and intangible costs are difficult to monetise and add to this burden," Dr. Girish Rao said.

Pointing out that low levels of education and income are closely linked to mental disorders, which in turn contribute to impoverishment, Dr. Rao said: "Data from the NMHS revealed that mental disorders were significantly higher in households with lower income, poor education and limited employment. It is evident that these individuals have a greater vulnerability to mental disorder."

Low self-reporting

The study by IIT- Jodhpur revealed that self-reporting of mental disorders in India is considerably lower than the actual burden of the disease. This disparity suggests a significant gap in identifying and addressing mental health issues.

(yasmeen.afshan@thehindu.co.in)

For feedback and suggestions
for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

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STANLEY LIFESTYLES LIMITED is proposing, subject to applicable statutory and regulatory requirements, receipt of requisite approvals, market conditions and other considerations, to undertake an initial public offering of its Equity Shares and has filed the DRHP with SEBI. The DRHP is available on the websites of SEBI at www.sebi.gov.in, stock exchanges i.e., BSE at www.bseindia.com and NSE at www.nseindia.com, respectively and is available on the website of the Company at www.stanleylifestyles.com and websites of the BRLMs, i.e. Axis Capital Limited at www.axiscapital.co.in, ICICI Securities Limited at www.icicisecurities.com, JM Financial Limited at www.jmfl.com and SBI Capital Markets Limited at www.sbicaps.com, respectively. Bidders should note that investment in equity shares involves a high degree of risk and for details relating to such risk, see the section titled "Risk Factors" that will be included in the RHP. Potential Bidders should not rely on the DRHP filed with SEBI for making any investment decision. The Equity Shares have not been and will not be registered under the U.S. Securities Act of 1933 (the "U.S. Securities Act") or any state securities laws in the United States, and unless so registered, and may not be offered or sold within the United States, except pursuant to an exemption from, or in a transaction not subject to, the registration requirements of the U.S. Securities Act and applicable U.S. state securities laws. Accordingly, the Equity Shares are being offered and sold outside the United States in 'offshore transactions' in reliance on Regulations and the applicable laws of each jurisdictions where such offers and sales are made. There will be no public offering of the Equity Shares in the United States.

A BG-BGE

Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

The equity mutual funds inflow for the month of January

21,780 in ₹ crore. The inflow was the highest in nearly two years, propelled by the preference for small-cap funds and contributions from thematic funds. PTI

Number of Indian fishermen arrested by the Sri Lankan Navy

19 The Sri Lankan Navy has arrested Indian fishermen and two trawlers for illegally fishing in the island nation's waters near Delft Island in the northern Jaffna province, in the second such incident this month. PTI

The number of space launches expected in the next 14 months

30 India's space regulator IN-SPACe's space launches, including seven by private startups Skyroot and Agnikul, are scheduled in the fourth quarter of 2023-24 and FY25. PTI

Budget passed by the Municipal Corporation of Delhi for 2024-25

16,683 in ₹ crore. The Municipal Corporation of Delhi House (MCD) passed the budget amid accusations of corruption against the Delhi mayor Shelly Oberoi. PTI

The Palestinians killed in Israeli strikes since the war began

27,840 According to Gaza's Health Ministry, 67,317 have been wounded in Israeli strikes since October 7, 2023. AGENCIES

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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The Paytm Payments Bank debacle

Why has the apex banking regulator penalised Paytm Payments Bank Ltd? How is it going to affect the services of the fintech company? What are the concerns regarding money laundering? How is Paytm planning to transition its services to another bank?

EXPLAINER

Saptaparno Ghosh

The story so far:

In a major blow to fintech services provider Paytm, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) barred its payments bank subsidiary, Paytm Payments Bank Ltd (PPBL) from obtaining further deposits and top-ups in its accounts or wallets from February 29. PPBL was barred from on-boarding news customers back in March 2022. The latest move was after an audit report had revealed "persistent non-compliances and continued material supervisory concerns in the bank".

What has the RBI instructed?

The RBI has disallowed the Paytm subsidiary from accepting further deposits, top ups or credit transactions into its operated wallet or accounts from February 29. This also applies to its prepaid instruments for FASTags and National Common Mobility Cards (NCMC) cards. Present customers would, however, be allowed to use their existing balances to avail the services. The payments bank, according to Macquire Capital, houses the parent company One97 Communication (OCL)'s more than 330 million wallet accounts. In other words, transactional money is held in the wallets of the payments bank.

Further, PPBL has been prohibited from carrying out any banking services (in the nature of services like AEPS, IMPS etc), bill payments and UPI. It has also been directed to "terminate at the earliest", or before February 29, nodal accounts of its parent company and Paytm Payments Services. Nodal accounts are a type of bank account opened by businesses (financial intermediaries) and are used for holding money from participating banks – from the consumer's side, and ultimately remitting to the specific merchant.

Lastly, the regulator has asked the subsidiary to settle all pipeline and nodal accounts transactions by March 29. No further transactions shall be permitted thereafter. Equity researchers at Macquire Capital believe the move may result in revenue and profitability implications in the medium to long term. "Given the severe restrictions imposed on PPBL, we believe it significantly hampers Paytm's ability to retain customers in its ecosystem, and accordingly restricts it from selling payment and loan products," its note read. More importantly, with no near-term solution in sight, the researchers opine the regulator is "indirectly revoking the PPI (prepaid instrument) license of Paytm".

REUTERS

The parent company expects the latest action would have a "worst case impact" of ₹300 to ₹500 crore on its annual EBITDA (earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortisation).

How is Paytm looking to transition?

The company informed that it would now be working with other banks and not with PPBL. It further intends to expand third-party bank partnerships for merchant acquiring services (providing essential infrastructure for acquiring merchants for helping them access payments) with other banks. As enumerated by the President and Chief Operating Officer (COO) Bhavesh Gupta, the migration is to unfold in three stages. The first of it would entail finding an interested partner bank to integrate with the necessary Paytm ecosystem. Second, assessing the ensuing commercial viability and finally, facilitating the account-to-account migration which could be time-consuming given, as he stated, "the time is short".

The other option would be a one-time migration.

What are the concerns?

The first set of concerns relates to its licensing. RBI guidelines for licensing of payments banks stipulate that entities cannot undertake lending activities. PPBL does not lend directly. Instead, it provides credit-dispensing products from third parties. The other issue relates to its governance structure and related party-transactions. For perspective, Paytm owns 49% of PPBL. The remainder is held by founder Vijay Shekhar Sharma. OCL in its initial response put forth that, adhering to banking regulations, PPBL is "run independently" by its management and board. It further argued against having exerted any influence on the subsidiary's operations other than as a minority board member or shareholder. It further communicated having "reconfirmed" with founder that he has not taken any margin loans or pledged any shares - directly or indirectly owned by him. Researchers at Macquire observed the bigger issue arose with the company not being in the good books of the regulator. In fact, on Thursday, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said regulated entities are initially nudged to take corrective action and are given sufficient time. However, when that does not work, "effective action" is taken, such as "imposing supervisory or business restrictions". Furthermore, as learnt from sources, Mr. Sharma also met Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman recently. Therein too, he was told "in no uncertain terms" to comply with the directives and regulations. Going forward, it held, their lending partners could potentially re-look the relationships. Earlier, the RBI had penalised the subsidiary ₹5.39 crore for flouting KYC norms. Furthermore, news publication *NDTV Profit* recently learnt that over 1,000 accounts were found to be linked with the same PAN to their accounts. Thus, creating concerns about money laundering. Revenue Secretary Sanjay Malhotra told *Reuters* that should any fresh charges of money laundering emerge against Paytm from the RBI, they would be investigated by the ED.

THE GIST

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) barred its payments bank subsidiary, Paytm Payments Bank Ltd (PPBL) from obtaining further deposits and top-ups in its accounts or wallets from February 29.
- The RBI has disallowed the Paytm subsidiary from accepting further deposits, top ups or credit transactions into its operated wallet or accounts from February 29. This also applies to its prepaid instruments for FASTags and National Common Mobility Cards (NCMC) cards.
- Paytm informed that it would now be working with other banks and not with PPBL.

What are the regulations with respect to rice prices?

What are the measures the government is taking to bring down the increasing price of rice?

M. Soundariya Preetha

The story so far:

The Indian government recently made it mandatory for all traders, wholesalers, retailers, and millers to declare their respective rice stocks. The government has also announced the launch of "Bharat rice" to bring down rice prices in the market. However, millers and traders feel these are not enough to control prices.

What about paddy production?

In the year 2022-2023, India produced 135 million tonnes of rice, which is 62.84 lakh tonnes higher than the previous year. However, the year 2023-2024 is seeing multiple estimates coming in. The southern States, which are also the major rice consuming States, are said to have suffered a drop in paddy production because of inadequate rainfall. In Tamil Nadu, the production may drop by almost 30% and in Karnataka, there is almost 25% decline, claim traders and farmers. However, in the north, trade sources say, rice production (basmati and non-basmati) is up 15%. The Union government said that there are ample stocks with the Food Corporation of India and that Kharif crop is good. For the Rabi crop, area under paddy as of February 2, is 39.29 lakh hectares compared to the 40.37 lakh hectares last year.

What about rice prices?

The retail price of rice has increased by 14.51% in the last one year. While Basmati rice prices are said to have dropped 15% in the last one month, paddy prices are up in the southern States. The prices of some varieties increased by more than ₹10 a kg between November 2022 and November 2023. Of the nearly 430 varieties of rice produced in the country, the rice inflation is high in the varieties that is largely preferred by consumers. In States such as Tamil Nadu, farmers who have the capacity to hold stocks and sell to private traders, are expecting better prices this year.

What are the measures taken so far?

The government has asked traders, wholesalers, retailers, chain retailers and millers to report the stocks online in the categories of broken rice, non-basmati white rice, par-boiled rice, basmati rice, and paddy. It has also launched the retail sale of 'Bharat Rice' to general consumers at ₹29 per kg. Moreover, in September 2022, the export of broken rice was banned, and a 20% duty was imposed on par-boiled rice. Non-basmati white rice exports was also put under the prohibited category from July 2023. The government has procured 600 lakh tonnes of paddy during the current Kharif marketing season, starting October 1, 2023. With this, the central pool has 525 lakh tonnes of rice as against the annual requirement of almost 400 lakh tonnes for welfare schemes. Till the end of January this year, the government has sold 1.66 lakh tonnes of rice in the open market.

Why are prices increasing?

Traders and millers cite several reasons for the higher retail rice prices. The Minimum Support Price for rice has gone up in the last five years and the cost of transport, storage, etc. are also escalating. In rice consuming States, the varieties consumed in large quantities have seen a drop in production this year. Further, despite government measures, export of non-basmati rice has seen a multi-fold jump during the last three years compared to the previous years. Non-basmati rice exports were 5.1 million tonnes in 2019-2020 which increased to 13.1 million tonnes in 2020-2021, 17.3 million tonnes in 2021-2022, and 16.1 million tonnes in 2022-2023. In April-May 2023-2024, it was 2.8 million tonnes compared to the 2.7 million tonnes for the same period a year earlier. The export duty levied by the government is neutralised by the high international prices, say the traders. Furthermore, the rice consumed in the retail market is of the stock of last season and with a shortfall in arrivals, the prices may go up even more in the coming months.

What should the government do ?

According to the millers in the northern States, there is a demand for rice for consumption, ethanol production, and cattle feed. The government should prioritise sale for consumption. The stock data collected by the government is expected to give an indication of the stock levels. It should look at capturing data for the most consumed varieties too before deciding the future course of action.

THE GIST

- The Indian government recently made it mandatory for all traders, wholesalers, retailers, and millers to declare their respective rice stocks.
- It has also launched the retail sale of 'Bharat Rice' to general consumers at ₹29 per kg.
- Traders and millers cite several reasons for the higher retail rice prices. The Minimum Support Price for rice has gone up in the last five years and the cost of transport, storage, etc are also escalating.

54% of people in city never used government's digital platforms, says report

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

(From left) N. Dayasindhu, co-founder and CEO of itihaasa Research and Digital; Rajalaxmi Kamath from the Centre for Public Policy, IIM Bangalore; Kris Gopalakrishnan, founder of itihaasa; Debabrata Das, Director, IIIT-B; Krishnan Narayanan, co-founder of itihaasa; and Sudhir Krishnaswamy, Vice-Chancellor, NLSIU Bangaluru, at a symposium on Thursday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Top regular digital usage	Activity by general public (%)	IT experts (%)
Call family/friends on WhatsApp	90	80
Watch videos on YouTube / Facebook / Instagram chat	83	69
Message on WhatsApp	52	76
Use digital payments such as UPI / GPay / PhonePe / Paytm	48	84
Browse / comment on Facebook / Instagram	35	67

In what could sound surprising coming from the IT city, a recently conducted survey revealed that around 54% of the general public in Bengaluru had never used any of the major government platforms/solutions available online.

At 32%, Aadhaar was the most used government platform among the general public, followed by IRCTC railway ticketing at 23% and Aarogya Setu/Co-Win - healthcare apps at 22%. Even among these, there were differences between Socio Economic Classification (SEC) groups.

The survey for the report 'Digital Society – A study of an Urban City (Bengaluru)' was conducted in 2023 by itihaasa Research and Digital, a company that studies the evolution of technology and businesses, and released on Thursday, in a symposium organised by the Centre for IT and Public Policy (CITAPP) at International Institute of Information Technology Bangalore (IIIT-B) on 'Emerging Opportunities and Challenges in the Digital Society.' The participants were divided into two groups - 1,640 respondents who were chosen by random sampling method, referred to as the general public, and 206 respondents (booster sampling), who are referred to as IT experts in the report. In most parameters assessed in the study, there were significant differences among the two groups.

For instance, the usage of government platforms/solutions by IT experts was 2.5 times more than the general public. At least 97% of them had reportedly used at least one government solution once in the last year. The report says the general public mainly (90%) used digital technology for calling friends/family on WhatsApp, while 83% used it to watch videos on social media. They used digital technology for messaging on WhatsApp (76%), using digital payment apps (84%), browsing and commenting on Facebook or Instagram (67%), online shopping (62%) and online delivery of food (60%).

Sudhir Krishnaswamy, Vice-Chancellor, National Law School of India University (NLSIU), who participated in a panel discussion at the symposium, said, "Given the media and public discourse on the matter, the abysmally low usage of government platforms even among SEC A people in a city like Bengaluru in 2024 is rather alarming."

Sweeter days are ahead for mangoes, barring unfavourable weather conditions in State

With the weather conditions being congenial in the flowering season, the Technical Committee set up by the Karnataka State Mango Development and Marketing Corporation, is confident of an average good yield this year

Jahnavi T.R.
BENGALURU

According to the committee's findings, in the absence of any rain in the coming months, and with on-time, one-phased, and quality flowering, the mango yield will be 12-14 lakh tonnes in Karnataka. FILE PHOTO

Barring unprecedented weather conditions, this year might be sweeter for mango after quite a few off years in the recent past. With the weather conditions being congenial in the flowering season, the Technical Committee set up by the Karnataka State Mango Development and Marketing Corporation (KSMDMC), is confident of an average good yield this year.

The Technical Committee met last month for the evaluation of mango yield. "At the time, there was 15-20% flowering in Ramanagara district. Now it has touched around 75-80%. Ideally, the formation of fruits should have started by now, but there is a slight delay. In the major growing areas of Kolar, Chikkaballapura and Bengaluru Rural districts, there is 30-35% flowering (delayed), but it will happen properly in February," said C.G. Nagaraju, Managing Director, KSMDMC. Production is expected to be good in Kolar as well, he said.

He added that, unlike previous years, there was no rainfall during the flowering months making the weather conditions congenial for mangoes this time.

According to the committee's findings, in the absence of any rain in the coming months, and on-time, one-phased, and quality flowering, then the mango yield would be 12-14 lakh metric tonnes in Karnataka. If not, the State will get around 8-10 lakh metric tonnes of mangoes.

Mr. Nagaraju mentioned that it is difficult to have demarcated on and off years with weather fluctuations and cultivation changes. "It feels like we are heading towards an on year. Ideally, an on year is when more than 75% of trees produce fruits and flowers. This year, we are certain to see at least an average yield. The harvesting should start by the end of March or the first week of April in Ramanagara. The weather conditions have been fantastic this year, especially in Ramanagara," S.V. Hittalamani, former Additional Director (Fruits), Horticulture Department who presently heads the Technical Committee for mangoes, told *The Hindu*.

He further said that there has been no disease outbreak this year so far which shows that farmers have taken necessary precautions based on the training they have received in the previous years.

The marketing preparation for mangoes is underway and in full swing in the State. The Thothapuri variety from Kerala and Tamil Nadu have already come to markets while the mangoes from Karnataka will be available from April.

The Kesar variety which has been cultivated largely in Koppal district this year, is expected to hit the markets earlier than the other fruits of the same variety from the other States.

Farmers demand Kisan Rail from Kolar to Delhi

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The mango growers from Kolar district have urged the Union government to consider resuming the Kisan Rail that ran between Srinivasapur taluk and New Delhi for a year.

Good prices

"Every year, the farmers in Srinivasapura grow five to six lakh tonnes of mangoes and if the train services are resumed, then it will help them get good prices for the fruit," said NeelaturuChinnappa Reddy, president, of Kolar District Mango Growers' Association.

More trains

The farmers also requested more trains from Srinivasapura to Tirupati via Madanapalli to benefit farmers from Kolar which is a major horticultural crop hub.

Sensitisation programme held in Mandya

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Bureau of Indian Standards, Bengaluru Branch Office recently organised a gram panchayat sensitisation programme in Madya involving 41 gram panchayats.

BIS, in a release, said that the programme was aimed to enlighten participants on Indian Standards and Quality ecosystem. The initiative focused on capacity building to effectively implement various programmes and schemes at the gram panchayat level. The programme was attended by gram panchayat presidents, PDOs, and secretaries.

Timings
BENGALURU

FRIDAY, FEB. 09
RISE 06:44 SET 18:23
RISE 06:10 SET 17:54

SATURDAY, FEB. 10
RISE 06:44 SET 18:24
RISE 07:03 SET 18:57

SUNDAY, FEB. 11
RISE 06:44 SET 18:24
RISE 07:52 SET 19:58

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	33	22
Mysuru	34	19
Bengaluru	34	17

Bengaluru Today
33ºC A dry weather to prevail. Morning will be cool with mist and haze. Day will be warm. Night also will be cool and hazy.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
32ºC The weather will be dry. Morning will be cool with mist and haze. Day will remain little warm. Night will be slight cool and hazy.

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THE HINDU
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BWSSB invites bids for Cauvery VI stage DPR to supply water to towns around Bengaluru

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

As work on Cauvery V stage is nearing completion, Bengaluru Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) has called for bids to prepare a Detailed Project Report (DPR) for Cauvery VI stage, which will supply water to towns around Bengaluru apart from a few pockets on the outskirts of the city.

The VI stage will utilise around 6 tmcft of Cauvery river water annually, taking up the total utilisation by Bengaluru and surrounding areas to around 35 tmcft annually. BWSSB has mooted the VI stage project following a recent order by the Karnataka government to fully utilise water allotted for drinking in the Cauvery award.

Under the VI stage, water will be supplied to two new BDA layouts in Bengaluru – Dr. Shivaram Karanth Layout and Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout – apart from towns around Bengaluru – Nelamangala, Devanahalli, Hoskote, Bidadi, Anekal, among others, sources said.

A senior BWSSB official said that it has to be noted that only these towns will be supplied drinking water under this project, and not the entire taluk.

BWSSB intends to draw water from Shivanasamudra, in Malavalli taluk Mandya and take the water to Torekadanahalli, where the water will be processed and from there to other destinations via a pipeline, a senior official said.

Tender issued

BWSSB had issued a tender on February 6 for a consultancy to prepare the DPR of the project.

The consultant will have to conduct a study, including Environment Impact Assessment, and finalise the alignment of the pipeline along with the cost. BWSSB has set the cost of preparing the DPR as ₹95 lakh. February 21 is the last date for submitting bids.

Sources in BWSSB said there were no discussions yet on the cost of the project, financing options and as to who will execute the project. Towns around the city that are supposed to get water under the VI stage are not under BWSSB jurisdiction.

Cauvery V stage

BWSSB is in the final stages of completing work on Cauvery V stage.

BWSSB has committed itself to a trial run in April, and full commissioning of the supply line in May 2024.

Under the V stage, 110 villages newly added to the city's civic administration in 2008 will finally get piped water supply from Cauvery.

Cauvery water for Bengaluru

- Cauvery water being supplied to Bengaluru now: **1,450 MLD or around 19 tmcft** annually
- Cauvery V stage to supply water to **110 newly** added villages
- Cauvery V stage to be commissioned by **May 2024**
- Cauvery V stage will deliver **770 MLD** or around **10 tmcft** annually
- Cauvery VI stage to supply water to towns around Bengaluru
- Cauvery VI stage to supply **500 MLD** or around **6 tmcft** annually
- Total usage of Cauvery water after completion of VI stage: around **35 tmcft** annually

Areas expected to get water under Cauvery VI stage

- Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout, Bengaluru
- Dr. Shivarama Karanth Layout, Bengaluru
- Nelamangala town
- Devanahalli town
- Hoskote town
- Anekal town
- Bidadi town

Under the VI stage, water will be supplied to two new BDA layouts – Dr. Shivaram Karanth Layout and Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout – apart from towns around Bengaluru – Nelamangala, Devanahalli, Hoskote, Bidadi, Anekal, among others, sources say

The project was taken up at a cost of ₹5,500 crore with a loan from Japan Infrastructure Cooperation Agency (JICA).

However, of the targeted 3.5 lakh properties that will benefit from the Cauvery V stage, only 1.5 lakh property owners have paid the Beneficiary Contribution Charge (BCC) and Establishment of Tools and Plants (ETP) charge, and availed water connections.

"It is too early (to seek water connection). People will avail connections once we start supplying water," a senior BWSSB official said.

There are many who had paid in 2019 and are still waiting for water supply, creating a trust deficit on whether BWSSB will supply water as per the latest deadline of May 2024.

Meanwhile, many have also demanded that the ETP charge is hefty, and it should be abolished.

Whitefield residents complain of pollution as cattle grazers burn grass

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In the wetlands near Varthur lake in Whitefield, cattle grazers are allegedly burning the grass regularly. With smoke billowing into the apartments in the neighbourhood, the people in Bellandur Amanikere village in the vicinity **People in Bellandur Amanikere village in the vicinity say the smoke is causing air pollution, and as a result, respiratory problems**

say it is causing air pollution, and as a result, respiratory problems.

Ibtraiz Siddiqui, a resident who lives close to the area, said people have been burning grass from the last one year in the area. "In and around Whitefield, many cattle grazers are burning old grass hoping to get more new grass to feed the animals. But this has resulted in massive pollution like stubble burning."

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PERSONAL
ANNOUNCEMENTS
I, ROSEMARY, D/o Parameshwari, R/a No.55, Kothandaram Nagar, Nala Road, near Sai Baba Temple, Narayana Pillai Street, Bangalore North, Bangalore-560001, hereby state that both the names Rosemary and Gayathri belongs to one and the same person i.e., me only vide affidavit dt: 07.02.2024 sworn before Notary Prasad Shetty.K.B, B'lore

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CONTACT: 98457 65559 98450 43282

PERSONAL
CHANGE OF NAME
I, Satishkumar R S/O, Raghunathan Nair R/o No 6/a, 4th Main 2nd Cross, Nar Lincy Bakery, Ramachandrapura, B'lore-560013. have changed my name to Satish R Nair for all purposes.

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Last date of receipt of applications is 23 February 2024 .

LEGAL NOTICE
IN THE COURT OF THE IV ADDL. CITY CIVIL JUDGE MAYOHALL UNIT AT BANGALORE (CCH-21)
O.S. NO. 26501/2023
BETWEEN :
ICICI Bank Limited
Having its registered office at Landmark, Race Course Circle, Vadodara - 390 007 and having its Corporate office at ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai - 400 051 and its branch office at Mythree Centre, 4/10, Hosur Road, Bommanahalli, Bangalore- 560 068
Represented by its Collection Manager & POA Holder Sri. Pramodh Gurumallappa ...Plaintiff
AND :
K. Rajashekar ...Defendant
Summons to Defendant
To,
Sri K. Rajashekar,
S/o. Sri Krishnappa Muni Venkatappa,
Aged about 40 years,
Krishna Nilaya, Basvanapura, Behind Amara Jyothi College, Near Bus Stop, Bangalore- 560 036
WHEREAS the Plaintiff has instituted above said suit against you for recovery of **Rs. 11,07,901/- (Rupees Eleven Lakh Seven Thousand Nine Hundred One Only)** together with interest @ 24% p.a., cost of the suit and to grant such other or further order relief. The above mentioned Defendant hereby summoned to appear before the Hon'ble.....Additional City Civil & Sessions Judge (CCH - 21) in person or through a Counsel who can able to answer the claim made against you on 25/03/2024 at 11:00 a.m. failing which the suit is heard and disposed ex-parte.
Given under my hand and seal of the Court on this **03/02/2024.**
By Order of The Hon'ble Court
Deputy Registrar,
City Civil Court Mayo hall Unit, Bangalore
ADVOCATE FOR PLAINTIFF
SA Associates,
No.10, 7th Cross, Victoria Layout, Bangalore- 560 047

LEGAL NOTICE
IN THE COURT OF THE 57th ADDL' CITY CIVIL JUDGE MAYOHALL UNIT AT BANGALORE (CCH-58)
O.S. NO. 26920/2022
Hg. 06.03.2024
BETWEEN :
ICICI Bank Limited
Having its registered office at Landmark, Race Course Circle, Vadodara- 390 007 and having its Corporate office at ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai- 400 051 and its branch office at Mythree Centre, 4/10, Hosur Road, Bommanahalli, Bangalore- 560 068
Represented by its Collection Manager & POA Holder Sri Pramodh Gurumallappa ...Plaintiff
AND :
Sri Shivakumar S. ...Defendant
Summons to Defendant
To,
Sri Shivakumar S.
S/o. Sri Siddaraju, Aged about 35, years, No. 56, 5th Cross, Pipeline Road, JC Nagar, Kurubarahalli, Bangalore North, Mahalakshmipuram, Bangalore- 560 086
WHEREAS the Plaintiff has instituted above said suit against you for recovery of **Rs. 4,89,331/- (Rupees Four Lakh Eighty Nine Thousand Three Hundred Thirty One Only)** together with interest @ 24% p.a., cost of the suit and to grant such other or further order relief. The above mentioned Defendant hereby summoned to appear before the Hon'ble 57th Additional City Civil & Sessions Judge (CCH – 58) in person or through a Counsel who can able to answer the claim made against you on **06.03.2024** at **11:00 a.m.** failing which the suit is heard and disposed ex-parte.
Given under my hand and the seal of the Hon'ble Court on this **22.01.2024.**
BY ORDER OF THE HON'BLE COURT
DEPUTY REGISTRAR,
CITY CIVIL COURT
MAYO HALL, UNIT,
BANGALORE
ADVOCATE FOR PLAINTIFF
SA Associates,
No. 10, 7th Cross, Victoria Layout, Bangalore- 560 047

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IN THE LIMELIGHT

A still from *Olive Kitteridge*.

From page to screen: film adaptations that surpassed their source material

Novels have always been a source of inspiration and fodder for movies. The author takes a deep dive into the world of films adapted from novels and how, rarely, screen adaptations have surpassed their book source in transporting us to their worlds.

Preetha Jayaraman

Olive Kitteridge, an adaptation by director Lisa Cholodenko of the eponymous novel by Elizabeth Strout, is a gentle, profound mini-series about a dysfunctional family set in a beautiful, idyllic seaside town in Maine. Frances McDormand plays Olive, a stern school teacher married to cheerful pharmacist Henry (Richard Jenkins) and the pair are like two peas wrongly squashed into a pod. The dinner table conversations at the Kitteridge residence are clipped, while Henry tries to keep it light for his teen son; Olive doesn't hesitate to speak about depression that runs rampant in the family and how her father shot himself in the head. There are deaths, tulips, boats, sunsets, suicides and Henry and Olive in the midst of it all growing old together.

The show begins with Olive getting ready to kill herself, a deviation from the book's opening and ends with her looking out at the ocean and seagulls, 'It baffles me, this world. I don't want to leave it yet," she says, which are also her last words in the book. The show is exquisite, and McDormand has swallowed the character of Olive whole; it's impossible to find the real Olive on paper again.

Going beyond the page

This gets one wondering about screen adaptations that have surpassed their book sources, and how rarely that magic happens. In our favourite books, the author has all the words in the world to tell us a story. Our imaginations drive the visuals, their words mesh with our minds to create symbiotic universes. With screen adaptations, however, the interpretation becomes the auteur's; the story is told in their visual and cinematic style, and they have limited time to tell it. Many a time, that's why when the lights come on, "the book is better than the movie," is a common critique. Is this because of a sense of proprietorship and resentment when a favourite story is tweaked and beginnings or endings changed? Is it like taking a core memory and trying to replace it, like meeting your imaginary friend and not liking them?

It's a daunting walk on fire for directors to try to adapt a popular book, yet from the inception of cinema, novels have been a source of inspiration and fodder for movies. Charles Dickens, who died 25 years before motion pictures came into existence, is credited with inventing the parallel montage (intercutting between two stories) in his writing, and he is also said to have inspired the track shoot and zoom technique through his way of storytelling.

Then there's Agatha Christie, Jane Austen, Stephen King, and John Grisham whose books have been repeatedly adapted; the list of authors and adaptations in the history of cinema is long and contentious.

Closer home, there are a few Indian-authored books that would make terrific films. Vikas Swarup's *Q & A* which a few years later became *Slumdog Millionaire*, *Serious Men* by Manu Joseph which became a film of the same name on Netflix, *The Story of My Assassins* by Tarun Tejpal which the show on Prime Video *Paatal Lok* is loosely based upon, and Jhumpa Lahiri's *The Namesake* to mention a few.

The beauty of adaptation

The Namesake remains an all-time favourite adaptation; Mira Nair elevated Lahiri's story of immigration, exile and generational discord with her impeccable casting, nuanced performances, minimal dialogues, and a visual style which takes your breath away. The intercut between Queensboro Bridge and Howrah Bridge, showing the two worlds of Ashima played by Tabu; the transition from New York through a train window to lush paddy fields in West Bengal through the bars of another train's window; the floating orange garland in the Ganges after her husband's ashes are immersed to the lone orange tree outside their home in the suburbs of NY where she is back now without him... all these images stay stronger than words.

The film is filled with effective cinematic storytelling and simple juxtaposition of shots which elicit emotions without music or dialogue. The shot of Ashima trying Ashoke's (played by Irrfan Khan) shoes before their first meeting is filled with cadence. It's easy for a film to dumb down a metaphor and make it too concrete, cheapen its essence with dialogue or drama, but it is finesse in the technique that makes the medium rise above the pages of a book and its words to tell a story visually without the crutches of dialogue-y exposition. Nair excels at this.

With the current generation watching more than reading, hope a reverse exodus happens where they seek out the book that inspired their favourite film.

The writer is a cinematographer who works in the Indian film industry

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

Its been 65 years since the dawn of intercontinental ballistic missiles. A quiz on the same

Vasudevan Mukunth

QUESTION 1

On February 9, 1959, the world's first intercontinental ballistic missile entered service for the Soviet Union. The country's defence ministry's index for it was 8K71. The missile part of it was called R-7. What was its launcher called? It delivered the Sputnik satellite to orbit in 1957.

QUESTION 2

In the following list, identify the three countries that don't have operational ICBMs and name two countries not in the list that do have them: Australia, China, France, Germany, India, Japan, North Korea, Russia, Saudi Arabia, the U.S.

QUESTION 3

Name the military doctrine that is the foundation of nuclear peace — the idea that if two nuclear powers are armed with nuclear weapons and have both first- and second-strike capabilities, they don't have an incentive to attack each other nor to disarm.

QUESTION 4

Name the 1972 treaty under which the U.S. and the Soviet Union agreed to not development anymore new ICBMs after the treaty date, unless an equal number of such missiles (land-based or sea-based) were dismantled first.

QUESTION 5

Agni V is India's land-based ICBM and has a range of 7,000-10,000 km. Its next iteration is called Agni VI, which will also have an MIRV feature. MIRV missiles confuse anti-ballistic-missile protection systems by releasing multiple warheads, some of which may be dummies, with different targets. What does MIRV stand for?

Visual question:
Name this ICBM developed by North Korea, first successfully tested in March or November 2022. It has a range of about 15,000 km and is possibly MRV-capable. AFP

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. Singer Tyla got the Grammy under this category. **Ans: Best African Music Performance**
2. Meryl Streep and Michelle Obama were all nominated for a Grammy under this category. **Ans: Best Audio Book, Narration, and Storytelling Recording**
3. This R&B artist was nominated for seven Grammys and won three awards. **Ans: Victoria Monét**
4. Olivia Rodrigo won a Grammy for Best New Artist this year for her hit album 'Guts'. True or false? **Ans: False. She won it last year for her album 'Sour'.**
5. This comedian hosted the Grammys this year. This comedian won a Grammy. **Ans: Trevor Noah; Dave Chappelle**
6. All the songs in this category, except one. were from this movie. **Ans: *Barbie***
Visual: This artist won the most awards at Grammys 2024 with this band. **Ans: Boygenius**
Early Bird: Prashant Nain

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subrahmanian

"Mr. R.Thangarajan, Chidambaram, wants to know the meaning of 'nepotism'."

" 'Nepotism' means 'undue favour in appointing one's own relatives to office.'

The minister is charged with nepotism.

'Nepotism' is from Latin 'nepos', nephew. Both in Latin and earlier English, the word meant 'grandchild or descendant'. In the Authorised version of the Bible, 'nephew' is used in the sense of 'grandchild'. 'If any widow have children or nephews' (I Timothy, v, 4). The practice of giving one's relatives unfair advantages when one has power, especially by giving them good jobs' is called nepotism. Nepotism is as common in India as mosquitoes and as beneficial."

"Mr. Bala Viswanathan, Jawahar nagar, Tirunelveli, wants to know why 'purprestur' is not as widely used as 'encroachment' when they mean the same."

" 'Purprestur' is a legal term. It is from Latin 'praehendere', to take. It means 'the wrongful enclosure of or intrusion upon lands, waters or other property rightfully belonging to the public at large'. Even in courts, this word is not used often. 'Encroachment' is a simpler word conveying the same meaning. 'Purprestur' is recorded only in a couple of dictionaries."

"Mr. Q.R. Varadarajan, Villivakkam, Madras, wants to know whether the following sentence is correct: 'He is leaving to the States for higher studies.'"

"You leave one place for another.

Today he is leaving Madras for Calcutta.

I am leaving for London tomorrow.

You go to a place.

I am going to Calcutta tomorrow.

She went to Delhi yesterday.

You leave for a place.

She is leaving for Nagpur today.

She left for Baroda yesterday.

He will be leaving for Bombay tomorrow."

"Mr. S. Srikanth, BH Road, Tumkur, wants to know whether the following sentence is correct: 'He cannot be able to climb the mountain.'"

"It is incorrect. 'Can' in this context means 'be able.' Say 'He cannot climb the mountain' or 'He is not able to climb the mountain.' 'Can' and 'able' don't go together. I can come. I will be able to come. Don't say 'I can be able to come.'

He can do it. He will be able to do it.

I can walk. I am able to work."

"Mr. C. Rangarajan, Lakshmipuram, Karaikudi, wants to know how to use 'upstage.'"

"Literally, it means 'on or towards the back of the stage.'

Can you see the actor moving upstage?

The opposite of 'upstage' is 'downstage.' Figuratively, it means (a) to divert attention from someone important to oneself (b) snobbish, haughty.

The President of the meeting upstaged the principal speaker by his superb speech.

What irritates everyone is her upstage behaviour.

I don't like him. He is uppish, upstage."

Published in The Hindu on January 22, 1991.

Word of the day

Prognosticate:
make a prediction about; tell in advance; indicate, as with a sign or an omen

Synonyms: promise, anticipate, predict, forebode, foretell, forecast, prefigure, omen, portend, foreshadow

Usage: *I won't prognosticate and say this will lead to other roles.*

Pronunciation: bit.ly/prognosticatepro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /prɒgˈnɒstɪkeɪt/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

Disruption in power supply in some areas of city tomorrow

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

There will be a disruption in power supply on Saturday between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. in the areas serviced from 66/ 11-kV C Station, in view of carrying out maintenance work. According to a release from Bescom, East Circle, HRBR Layout, and Banaswadi, the following areas will be affected. They are: Broadway Road, Cockburn Road, Station Road, Queen's Road, Thimmaiah Road, Miller's Road, Slaughterhouse Road, and surrounding areas, Cunningham Road, Ali Asker Road, Ali Asker Road Cross, Thimmaiah Road, Chikbazaar Road, Venkatappa Road, Muniswamy Road, Park Road, Nala Road, Chandini Chowk, Miller Tank Bund Road, Jasma Bhavan Road, Hains Road, Nehrupuram, Muthyalamma Koil Street, Seppings Road, Connaught Road, Infantry Road. Kensington Road, Vasanth Nagar and surrounding areas.

Two Super Hit Thoughtful Topical Comedy Dramas by 'TV' Varadharajen
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4.00 p.m. LKG Aasai எல்.கே.ஜி ஆசை
7.00 p.m. Kasalavu Nesam காசளவு நேசம்
11th February Sunday
Tickets (both dramas combo offer) Rs. 1500/-, Rs 1000 & Rs. 600/-
Contact : 'TV' VARADHARAJEN 94440 69292 SHANKAR KUMAR 9840357705
Written & Directed by 'Vedham Puthithu' Kannan
Venue : Krishnadevaraya Kala Mandira (Behind Chowdaiah Hall), Malleswaram, Bengaluru
Online booking : bookmyshow

Bike dealers arrested for killing friend over affair

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bagalagunte police on Thursday arrested two second-hand bike dealers who allegedly bludgeoned their friend to death over an illicit affair.

The accused have been identified as Kiran, 32, and Akhay, 31, while the deceased Hemanth, 24, was working as a steward at a hotel. According to the police, the accused and deceased were friends and Hemanth used to visit their house often. During some of his visits, Hemanth had taken his colleague Mariswamy to Kiran's house. Mariswamy later had an affair with Kiran's wife and they eloped.

Kiran blamed Hemanth for this and on February 4, called him to talk. They took him to an isolated area and assaulted him with an iron rod and stones and fled the spot, leaving him in a pool of blood, said the police.

Passers-by took him to a hospital where he succumbed the next day. The Bagalgunte police took up the investigation based on a complaint by the mother of the deceased and found the involvement of Kiran and Akshay, and arrested them.

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Shri Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister
Social Welfare Department
Shri D.K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister
Financial Assistance to Scheduled Caste Journalists
to set up a Business Venture in Electronic and Digital media
Dr. H.C. Mahadevappa
Hon'ble Minister of Social Welfare participated in the departmental meeting.
Eligibility to Apply:
› Applicants should belong to Scheduled Castes.
› Applicants should be resident of Karnataka for the past 15 years.
› Age limit 30-50 years.
› Educational Qualification : graduate in any discipline.
› Applicant's annual family income should be less than Rs. 10.00 lakhs.
› 10 years of service experience (in major print or electronic media listed in the Department of Information & Public Relations).
› Candidates in the limits of Municipal Corporations (BBMP, Mysuru, Belagavi, Hubli-Dharwad, Kalaburagi, Ballari, Mangaluru, Vijayapura, Tumakuru, Davanagere and Shivamogga) of the State should apply.
› Applicants should not have benefited from any of the Corporations coming under the Social Welfare Department.
› No member of the applicant's family should be holding a post of Group A/Group B in Government/ Semi-Government/ Corporation / Board and any other organizations of GoK.
› Applicants Should be registered in Udyog Aadhaar Memorandum (UAM).
› Project Report should be attached along with the application.
Kalyana Mitra 24x7 helpline 9482300400
Hard copy of the application form can be downloaded from the department website: www.sw.kar.nic.in from 09.02.2024.
Duly Filled and signed application to be submitted in the office of the joint Director / Deputy Director, Social Welfare Department of their respective district before 26.02.2024, 5.30 pm.
As is enshrined in our Constitution, "to value and preserve the rich heritage of our composite culter" - is the fundamental duty of every citizen of the country.
Commissioner, Social Welfare Department

ADVERTISEMENT
Old Age Fractures: Prevention and initial care
With betterment of medical care, the average survival age has increased in recent decades across the globe. With ageing there will be many changes within human body in comparison to youth. Most common problems affecting elderly population are reduced vision, reduced body reflexes, balance, Osteoporosis and Osteoarthritis of joints, mainly knee and hip. Osteoporosis makes bones weak and vulnerable to break easily. While Osteoarthritis with reduced joint movements and pain, limits mobility. Also, Elderly population might have associated medical co-morbidities like Diabetes, high blood pressure and on medication for some other medical problems. All these factors increase the risk of falls and the risk of bone break (Fractures) even with minimal force like a fall from standing height or less than that.
Common fractures resulting from fall in elders are mainly fractures around the hip (called fracture neck of femur), Fractures around wrist, shoulder and spine, rarely any other bones can involve.
Prevention of the fractures: This involves multimodal approach.
1. Improving personal health: This is the key to the prevention. Firstly, to correct general health by having nutritious food which include all vitamins especially fruits, vegetables, milk, and protein food. At the same time simple exercises like walking especially in early sunlight, minimal weightlifting will help in maintaining bone and muscle strength. This can be done at least 3 to 4 days a week. Regular Vision (Eye) check and to rectify any visual problems if there are any. Osteoporosis needs supervised treatment under Physician. Other medical problems like Diabetes, High blood pressure need regular medication (not to miss out medications) and medical check up to prevent significant variations.
2. Improving living conditions: It is ideal to live in ground floor housing, if there is an option, to prevent stair climbing, which increases joint pain and risk of fall due to missing steps. Anti-Slippery flooring helps to prevent falls due to slippery surfaces. This is applicable both within the house and outdoors. Always try to get the side rails (Bars) mounted in bathrooms (if possible) and other wet area. Good lighting will increase the visibility and reduce the chances of fall. Every time, one should use walking stick or any other supports, especially when one cannot walk independently and has reduced vision. Avoid going out during dark and late evenings. Carry your mobile phone always (both indoor & Outdoors), preferable hanging around the neck with a pouch or tied around waist.
Initial Care: - Whenever someone sustains a fall at home or outdoors, there are a few important things to follow; Move the injured person to the nearest safe area (away from fire or drowning risk)
If the injured person is conscious, and able enough to stand or walk independently or with minimal support, the injury might be minimal. These patients can be self-transferred to nearest hospital for further treatment.
If the person is Unconscious, do not try to feed him/ her with any liquids or water. Contact the nearest available hospital ambulance service for help.
Limb injuries (arms and legs): - If you notice a deformed (bent) arm leg or arm, you can splint it with some support like cardboard sheets with roller cloth to hold them together. Also, can place Ice cubes in a plastic bag and place it over injured area (if skin is intact). This is beneficial in reducing swelling and pain especially in injuries around shoulder, elbow, forearm, wrist, hand, knee, leg, ankle, and foot.
Hip Fractures: - The Patient will have significant pain around outer side of the hip and in groin, unable to lift leg and unable to stand or walk. In such people, it is ideal to transfer them to the nearest Hospital on urgent basis, as these injuries need to be treated on priority. Often these injuries are associated with other acute medical problems like heart attack, low blood glucose (in diabetics), low blood pressure.
Spinal injuries: - Most spinal injuries in elderly are due to osteoporosis resulting in fracture even without a fall. These injuries are common in low and mid back, rarely seen in neck region. Any patient with spinal injuries needs assessment by specialist doctors. It is ideal, one should have urgent assessment at the nearest hospital. Avoid travelling by sitting (either in two-wheeler or cars), preferred to be shifted by ambulance.

Dr. Chandrashekara C M
Consultant: Orthopaedics
SS SPARSH Hospital, RR Nagar, Bangalore
These are the minimum preventative and early care measures one should follow.
For Appointment & Queries Call : 080 61222000

HC reduces time period to auction unclaimed vehicles seized by police

'Abandoned vehicles can be auctioned after 30 days if the age of the vehicle is beyond 15 years, after following due process of law'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka on Thursday, reduced the period for auctioning of unclaimed vehicles which are seized by the police after being abandoned on footpaths.

Instead of waiting for six months to auction such vehicles after notifying them in the official gazette as practised at present, the Court has set a maximum period of up to three months for auctioning depending upon the age of the abandoned and unclaimed vehicles.

A Division Bench comprising Chief Justice P.S. Dinesh Kumar and Justice T.G. Shivashankare Gowda passed the interim order after the government pointed out that the metropolitan magistrate courts are allowing the auction of such vehicles only on expiry of six months after notifying them in the gazette.

Police have identified a yard for storing unclaimed abandoned vehicles till auction. FILE PHOTO

PIL petition

The Bench was hearing a PIL petition that had raised issue of senior citizens being affected due to lack of railings to footpaths at many places.

Meanwhile, the Bench said that abandoned vehicles can be auctioned after 30 days if the age of the vehicle is beyond 15 years after following due process of law and taking consent of the jurisdictional magistrate.

However, if the age of the vehicle is between one year and five years, then such vehicles can be auctioned three month after notifying them in the gazette. If the age of vehicle is between five and 15 years, then auction can be held two months after notifying in gazette.

Parking

Meanwhile, Bengaluru City police have also told the Court that the government has identified a two-acre land in Mallasandra village of Bengaluru North for storage of abandoned or unclaimed vehicles till they are either auctioned or scrapped as per the law. The police informed the procedure that they follow for seizing vehicles parked on footpath for long period.

On the other hand, the Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike has told the Court that it would regulate the hawkers on footpaths depending of locality in such a way that balance of interest of both the pedestrian and street vendors are protected by coordinating with the police. Both the BBMP and the police came up with plans to maintain footpaths in response concern expressed by the court last week on parking of vehicles on footpath.

Construction worker killed as cement block falls on him

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 40-year-old construction labourer was killed in a freak accident while sleeping at an under-construction site on Kasavanahalli in Bellandur on Tuesday night.

The deceased has been identified as Pradeep Kumar, a native of West Bengal. He was sleeping at the site when a cement block fell on him from the fourth floor of the multi-storeyed building, the police said.

The injured Pradeep was rushed to hospital where he succumbed on Wednesday. The Bellandur police have registered a case of death due to negligence for further investigations.

IN THE 89TH ADDITIONAL CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE AT BENGALURU (CCH - 90)
Comm.O.S. No.1395/2023
Between
Axis Bank Limited, Having its registered office at Trishul, 3rd Floor, Opposite Samaratheshwar Temple, Near Law Garden, Ellis Bridge, Ahmedabad-380006 and its branch office Plot No.41, Sheshadri Road, Anand Rao Circle, Bangalore-560009. **Represented by its Senior Manager and Authorized Representative Sri. BY Arjun Dev ...Plaintiff**
And
Sri B A Sheshachala ...Defendant
APPLICATION UNDER ORDER 5 RULE 20 OF C.P.C
Summons to Defendant
Sri. B A Sheshachala S/o Sri. B Anathaiah, Aged about 55 years, No.20, 1st Floor, Neeladri, 2nd Main, Sampige Road, 10th Cross, Malleswaram, Bangalore-560 003.
Also At:
Sri B A Sheshachala, No.686, 3rd E Cross, Sathayanarayana Layout, Bangalore-560079
And Also At:
Sri. B A Sheshachala, No.37, 3rd Main, 6th Cross, Near Old Sub Registrar Office, Maruthi Housing Layout, Basaveshwaranagar, Bangalore-560079.
WHEREAS the Plaintiff has instituted a suit against you for recovery of a sum of **Rs.16,25,719/- (Rupees Sixteen Lakh Twenty Five Thousand Seven Hundred Nineteen Only)** together with interest thereon at the rate **24% p.a.,** with costs etc. You may take notice that you are hereby directed to appear before this court, in person, or through pleader on **07/03/2024** at **11.00 a.m.,** to answer as to why relief prayer for in the suit should not be granted. If you fail to appear on the above said date, the suit will be proceeded with and decided ex-parte.
Given under my hand and the seal of the Hon'ble Court on this **05/02/2024.**
By Order of The Court
City Civil Court, Bengaluru
ADVOCATE FOR PLAINTIFF
S A Associates, No.10, 7th Cross, Victoria Layout, Bangalore - 560 047

PUBLIC NOTICE
Public at large are hereby notified that my client MR. VINEET BHARTI S/o. Rameshwar Dayal Jindal, Residing at Flat No. C-202, Adarsh Palm Retreat, Bellandur, Bangalore – 560103 have entered into an Agreement of Sale with MR. T. R. RAMACHANDRA S/o. late Mr. T. R. Rajan having address at # 5, "Shilpa Sunshine, 27th Cross, 6th Main Road, Jayanagar 3rd Block, Bangalore – 560 011, wherein they have agreed to sell the property mentioned in the schedule B hereto, to my client vide Agreement dated 05/02/2024.
All persons claiming any interest in the schedule B property or any part thereof by way of sale, gift, lease, inheritance, exchange, mortgage, charge, lien, trust, possession, easement, attachment or otherwise howsoever are hereby required to make the same known to the undersigned at her below mentioned office within 15 days from the date hereof along with the supportive documentary evidence of such claim, failing which, said sale will be completed, without any obligation on my client.
SCHEDULE A PROPERTY
All that piece and parcel of land bearing Survey No. 12/1 (which is part of BBMP Khata No. 1863/201/14) measuring 1 Acres 24 Guntas and Survey No. 13 (which is part of BBMP Khata No. 1863/201/14) measuring 1 Acre 19 Guntas (and 17 Guntas Kharab) situated at Kaikondrahalli Village, Varthur Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk (earlier in Bangalore South Taluk) and commonly bounded on its: East by Ramakrishna college/ venkatashama Reddy's land;West by-Anand Shiksha Kendra / Survey No – 13; North by- Land bearing Survey No. 14; South by - Kasavanahalli Village Boundary.
SCHEDULE B PROPERTY
All that Row house/Villa in project Shilpa Dacha, typical East facing residential unit privately bearing identification name and Super Luxury Dacha No.05 (SLD 05) BBMP Khata No.2691/1863 /SLD:5 consisting of Ground Floor, First Floor and Second Floor, admeasuring 10,133.68 square feet of super built-up area in Ward Marathahalli, along with undivided share right, title and interest and ownership in Project Land is 9,977.44 square feet in Schedule A Property situated on Sarjapur Main Road, Kaikondrahalli Village, Bengaluru – 560 035, built on the Project Land and and the plot on which said residential unit is situated is bounded by: East by- Drive way;West by: Garden area after that Property in occupation of R K Education Institutions;North by: Shilpa Luxury Dacha No. 04;South by: Kasavanahalli Village Boundary;Building constructed of RCC roofing, Vitrified flooring, Wood Doors and UPVC windows used in the construction.
Place:Bangalore **Date-** 07/02/2024
Advocate: Sonali R.S.
O/at No.835, 11th Main, 7th Cross, I T I Layout, Bommanahalli, Bangalore 560068.
Ph: 080-41512289, 9742923111

MUNICIPAL CORPORATION OF DELHI
TOLL TAX DEPARTMENT
(E-TENDER NOTICE)
Notice Inviting Offer cum Request For Proposal (RFP)
NIT No: ADC/TT/HQ/MCD/2024/D-894 **Dated 07.02.2024**
ENGAGEMENT OF A CONTRACTOR BY MCD FOR TOLL & ENVIRONMENT COMPENSATION CHARGE (ECC) COLLECTION AT BORDER POINTS FROM SPECIFIED COMMERCIAL VEHICLES ENTERING DELHI
The MCD invites **online** technical and financial proposals through **https://etenders.gov.in** from interested developers/ Toll Plaza Operators to collect Toll Tax from specified commercial vehicles, upgrade/modify, operate, and maintain 154 toll plazas/posts/barriers locations bordering Delhi. In addition to toll collection, the contractor shall also separately collect ECC as per actual basis and deposit the same on weekly basis.
The work shall be granted for a period of 3 years. Reserve Price (for Toll amount only): Rs. 847.00 crores annually, Tender Cost Rs.1.00 lakh & EMD = Rs.17.00 crores. Any Firm /Entity in the form of Proprietor/Partnership /Pvt. Ltd. /Ltd. and JV may submit their proposal.
Pre-bid conference – 16.02.2024 at 03:00 PM at Conference Hall at 23rd Floor, Dr. SPM Civic Centre, Minto Road, New Delhi. Submission of Technical and Financial Proposal/Bid through Online mode only available at https://etenders.gov.in
Last date of submission of Proposal 29.02.2024 on or before 03.00 P.M. (IST) Date of opening of Technical Bids 01.03.2024 at 03.30 P.M. (IST)
For project background, Broad role of contractor, Eligibility Criteria, Selection Process and any other detailed information please refer NIT & RFP documents uploaded on website https://etenders.gov.in .
R.O. No.83/DPI/MCD/2023-24 **For Commissioner, MCD**

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, CENTRAL RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BHUBANESWAR
No. 688 / Date: 05.02.2024
"e" Procurement Notice for Bridge Works

1.	Name of the Work	:	Bridge Works under Biju Setu Yojana
2.	Total No. of Works	:	04 Nos. of Bridge Works under Biju Setu Yojana for the year 2023-24.
3.	Estimated Cost of the Work	:	Varies from Rs.366.28 lakhs to Rs.839.38 lakhs
4.	Class of Contractor	:	
	a) Estimated cost more than Rs.1.00 Crore up to Rs. 20.00 Crores		A Class (of Odisha PWD) or relevant class of other licensing authorities
	b) Estimated cost more than Rs.6.00 Crore up to Rs.50.00 Crores		Special Class (of Odisha PWD) or relevant class of other licensing authorities
5.	Period of Completion	:	As mentioned in Column-7 of Annexure
6.	Offered rates by bidder	:	The offered rate by the contractor shall be excluding GST.
7.	Other details		

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender on-line for bidding From	To	Date & Time of Opening of Tender Technical Bid	Financial Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6
Chief Construction Engineer, Central Rural Works Circle, Bhubaneswar	Tender - Online - C.C.- 04 of 2024	12.02.2024 at 11.00 AM	26.02.2024 Up to 5.00 PM	27.02.2024 at 11.00 AM	To be intimated lateron

Further details can be seen from the web site : **www.tendersodisha.gov.in**
Chief Construction Engineer, Central Rural Works Circle, Bhubaneswar.
O-2477: OIPR-25194/11/0001/2324

LUCKNOW MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
T.N. Road, Lalbagh, Lucknow - 226001 (U.P.)
Website : www.lmc.up.nic.in
Ref. No. : D/978/AMC/EE/23 Dated : 08/02/2024
EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
Expression of interest are invited by Lucknow Municipal Corporation from Experienced and technically qualified Private entities or Navratna PSUs for setting up of mixed waste processing & disposal facility of 2000 TPD Capacity in Lucknow on Design, Build, Finance, Own, Operate and Transfer (DBFOOT) basis based on sustainable advance Zero Residue Green Technology along with scientific disposal of 100% inert generated from processing of Municipal Solid Waste. Interested firms are required to process the Municipal Solid Waste generated in Lucknow City and has to develop waste to energy plant, bio-methanisation, composting, torrefication, or any suitable proven Zero Residue Green Technology that are easy to maintain and in line with the applicable laws & regulations for processing the mixed MSW and RDF including Construction of modern Scientific Sanitary Landfill for inert disposal and Construction of Leachate treatment plant and other treatment facilities. During the time of installation of plant, agency has to process the daily coming waste through traditional as well as scientific manner. The EOI documents and other terms and conditions can be downloaded from the UP Government E tender portal and the EOI has to be submitted through NIC e-tender website i.e. **https://etender.up.nic.in** and in per below given time Schedule:

EOI Upload & Download	10/02/2024 11:00 AM
Last date of query Submission	16/02/2024, 04:00 PM
Date and Place of Pre EOI Submission Meeting	17/02/2024 , 01:00 PM, LMC, Seminar Hall, Triloknath Marg, Lalbagh, Lucknow
Last date of Submission of EOI	23/02/2024, 04:00 PM
Last date of Hard Copy Submission	24/02/2024, 04:00 PM
Opening date of EOI	24/02/2024 Time: 5:00 PM
Cost of EOI Document	Rs 50,000.00/-
Contact Details	Sanjeev Pradhan Environment Engineer Email id: envengrnnlko@gmail.com Mobile No. : 7906928959

Additional Municipal Commissioner

MINOR IRRIGATION & GROUND WATER DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
Office of the Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation & Ground Water Development Department Division, Belagavi.
Phone No: 0831-2463850 / Fax No: 0831-2423008
No:EE/MI&GWDDD/BGM/TND/AE-1/JE/2023-24/639 Date: 07-02-2024
PRE-PONE SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (KW-4)
Corrigendum is issued as given below for tender called by Executive Engineer, MI & GWDD Division, Belagavi. Vide No: **EE/MI&GWDDD/BGM/TND/AE-3/2023-24/310, Date: 19-01-2024 for the 8 Works.**
1) Date of Pre Bid Meeting on **13-02-2024 at 11.00 AM.** **2)** Date of Tender Quarries on **13-02-2024 upto 17.30 Hrs.** **3)** Last Date for Receipt of Tender on **14-02-2024 upto 16.30 Hrs. 4)** Technical Bid will be Opened on **15-02-2024 (if possible).** All other conditions of the tender remain unchanged.
Sd/-
Executive Engineer
DIPR/Belagavi/1089/Adverto/2023-24 **MI & GWDD Division, Belagavi.**

Form No. INC-26
[Pursuant to rule 30 the Companies (Incorporation) Rules, 2014]
Public Notice for change of Registered Office of the Company from one state to another
Before the Regional Director, Ministry of Corporate Affairs
South Eastern Region, Hyderabad
In the matter of the Companies Act, 2013, Section 13(4) of Companies Act, 2013 and Rule 30(5)(a) of the Companies (Incorporation) Rules, 2014
AND
In the matter of **Suzone Properties Private Limited** (the Company)
(CIN: U70200KA2011PTC059294)
having its registered office at 25/1, Skip House, Museum Road, Bangalore - 560 025
E-mail: **urbaninfra-cs@gmrgroup.in** Phone No: **080-40432230**
... Applicant
Notice is hereby given to the General Public that the company proposes to make application to the Central Government under section 13 of the Companies Act, 2013 seeking confirmation of alteration of the Memorandum of Association of the Company in terms of the special resolution passed at the Extra ordinary general meeting held on Tuesday, February 06,2024 to enable the company to change its Registered office from the 'State of Karnataka within the jurisdiction of Bengaluru' to the 'State of Tamil Nadu within the jurisdiction of Coimbatore".
Any person whose interest is likely to be affected by the proposed change of the registered office of the company may deliver either on the MCA-21 portal **(www.mca.gov.in)** by filing Investor Complaint form or cause to be delivered or send by registered post of his/her objections supported by an affidavit stating the nature of his/her interest and grounds of opposition to the Regional Director, South Eastern Region, the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, 3rd Floor, Corporate Bhavan, Bandlaguda, Nagole, Tattiannaram Village, Hayat Nagar Mandal, Ranga Reddy District, Hyderabad-500068, Telangana within Fourteen days from the date of publication of this notice with a copy to the applicant company at its registered office at the address mentioned below:
Registered Office: 25/1, Skip House, Museum Road, Bangalore-560 025
For Suzone Properties Private Limited
Sd/-
Arivu Chelvan
Director
DIN: 03391559
Date: 09.02.2024
Place: Bangalore

KARNATAKA ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION
No.16 C-1, Millers Tank Bed Area, Vasanthanagara, Bengaluru - 560052. Phone: 080-22268677/78/79 Fax: 080-22268667
E-mail: kerc-ka@nic.in Website: https://kerc.karnataka.gov.in
No:KERC/DD(DF)/F-61-Vol.AII/2023-24 Date: 08-02-2024
PRESS NOTE
To encourage power generation through Solar Rooftop, the Commission propose to introduce Peer to Peer (P2P) Sale of Solar energy in the State of Karnataka. In this arrangement, generation of solar rooftop energy is consumed by the Prosumer (generator who also consumes energy for self) and surplus energy available after self-consumption can be sold to the other consumers who are willing to buy such surplus energy.
In this regard, the Commission has issued draft Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission (Implementation of Peer to Peer Solar Energy Transaction through block-chain based platform) Regulations, 2024, which has been published in the State Gazette on **17.01.2024.** A copy of the draft is made available on KERC's Website: **https://kerc.karnataka.gov.in**
In the existing Solar Roof Top Photo Voltaic (SRTPV) arrangement, the Commission has issued Regulations i.e. KERC (Implementation of Solar Rooftop Photovoltaic Power Plants) Regulations, in 2016, recognize only the sale of energy between consumers and the distribution utility / ESCOMs. Now, in the proposed P2P Regulations through Blockchain based platform, there will be a sale of energy between consumers at an agreed rate between the parties.
These Regulations not only promotes green energy but also emphasize flexibility, efficiency and inclusivity in energy trading. It aligns with the principles of a more decentralized and market-driven approach to energy distribution and consumption.
This Press Note is released for information of the general public with a request to suggest any improvement / additions to the P2P arrangements in the overall interest of Green Energy Development and its Sales at reasonable rates.
Sd/- Secretary
DIPR/CP/3480/2023-24 **for Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission**

Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike
Office of the Executive Engineer, K.R.Pura Division, Old Madras Road, K.R. Pura, Bangalore-560 036.
TN.No: EE/KRP/TND/08/2023-24 **Date: 08.02.2024**
INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)
(Short term-Tender Notification) (Two Cover System)
(Through e-Procurement Portal
GoK website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in only)
The Executive Engineer (K.R.Pura) invites Item Rate tenders from eligible tenderers for the works details given in the table below. The Tenderers may submit tenders for any or all of the works given in the table in appropriate class registered in Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike / CPWD/KPWD /Railways /MES/any or Central Govt. organization.

Sl. No.	Name of the work
1	Footpath Maintenance works in ward No.86 - Challakere **(ST Reserve)**
2	Footpath Maintenance works in ward No. 87 - Horamavu
3	Footpath Maintenance works in ward No.88 - Kalkere **(SC Reserve)**
4	Footpath Maintenance works in ward No.89 - Vijinapura
5	Footpath Maintenance works in ward No.90 - Ramamurthy Nagara.
6	Footpath Maintenance works in ward No 91-K R Pura
7	Footpath Maintenance works in ward No 92-Basavanapura
8	Footpath Maintenance works in ward No 93-Devasandra **(SC Reserve)**
9	Footpath Maintenance works in ward No 94-A Narayanapura
10	Footpath Maintenance works in ward No 95-Vignana Nagara **(ST Reserve)**
11	Footpath Maintenance works in ward No 96-HAL Airport **(SC Reserve)**
12	Providing Tractor & Labor for maintenance of Roads & drains in ward No-86-Challakere ward area **(SC Reserve)**
13	Providing Tractor & Labor for maintenance of Roads & drains in ward No-87-Horamavu area **(SC Reserve)**
14	Providing Tractor & Labor for maintenance of Roads & drains in ward No-88-Kalkere ward area **(SC Reserve)**
15	Providing Tractor & Labor for maintenance of Roads & drains in ward No-89-Vijinapura ward area
16	Providing Tractor & Labor for maintenance of Roads &drains in ward No-90-Ramamurthy Nagara ward area
17	Providing Tractor & Labor for maintenance of Roads & drains in ward No-91-K R Pura ward area **(ST Reserve)**
18	Providing Tractor & Labor for maintenance of Roads & drains in ward No-92-Basavanapura ward area
19	Providing Tractor & Labor for maintenance of Roads & drains in ward No-93-Devasandra ward area
20	Providing Tractor & Labor for maintenance of Roads & drains in ward No-94-A Narayanapura ward area
21	Providing Tractor & Labor for maintenance of Roads & drains in ward No-95- Vignana Nagara ward area
22	Providing Tractor & Labor for maintenance of Roads & drains in ward No- 96-HAL Airport ward area
23	Establishment of Temporary Monsoon control Room in ward No 86-Challakere
24	Establishment of Temporary Monsoon control Room in ward No 87-Horamavu.
25	Establishment of Temporary Monsoon control Room in ward No 88-Kalkere
26	Establishment of Temporary Monsoon control Room in ward No 89-Vijinapura
27	Establishment of Temporary Monsoon control Room in ward No 90-Ramamurthy Nagara
28	Establishment of Temporary Monsoon control Room in ward No 91-K R Pura
29	Establishment of Temporary Monsoon control Room in ward No 92-Basavanapura
30	Establishment of Temporary Monsoon control Room in ward No 93-Devasandra
31	Establishment of Temporary Monsoon control Room in ward No 94-A Narayanapura
32	Establishment of Temporary Monsoon control Room in ward No 95-Vignana Nagara
33	Establishment of Temporary Monsoon control Room in ward No 96-HAL-Airport

Est Cost in Lakhs : Rs. 5.00 to 30.00
EMD Amount (In Rs.) : 25000/- to 60000/-
Calendar of events: 1) Pre bid meeting will be held on: 15.02.2024 at 11.30 hrs. 2) Last date for tender queries & clarifications is 14.02.2024 up to 16.00 hrs. 3) Last date submission of tender documents on or before 21.02.2024 at 16.00 hours. 4) Technical Bids will be opened on 22.02.2024 at 16.30 hours. 5) Financial Bids will be opened on 23.02.2024 at 16.30 hours.
Sd/- Executive Engineer, K.R.Pura Division

Sumalatha meets Nadda, Santhosh

Sumalatha Ambareesh, Independent Lok Sabha member from Mandya, called on BJP national president J.P. Nadda in New Delhi on Thursday. PTI

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Further fuelling the talk of her strong pitch for a BJP ticket from Mandya, Independent Lok Sabha member and actor Sumalatha Ambareesh on Thursday met BJP national president J.P. Nadda and party general secretary (Organisation) B.L. Santhosh.

The Mandya MP, who defeated Nikhil Kumaraswamy, Janata Dal (S) youth wing president, in the 2019 election, called on the two BJP leaders in New Delhi and later posted photographs taken with them on the social media platform X.

"Today, I met BJP National President J.P. Nadda and BJP National General Secretary (organisation) B.L. Santhosh informally and discussed about Mandya constituency and Lok Sabha polls. I thank Nadda Ji and Santhosh Ji for giving their precious time and listening to me," she said.

Stakeholders seek 'Millet Mission'

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Stakeholders working on agricultural issues and spearheading campaign to promote millets and other neglected crops urged the State government to announce the constitution of 'Millet Mission' in the Budget to address the issues of malnutrition and stunted growth among children.

Bill to usher in reservation in cooperative societies across State cleared by Cabinet

The reservation will come into effect for all nominations to administrative boards of middle-level, federal, and apex body of cooperative institutions, says Minister H.K. Patil

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

To introduce reservation matrix to members from Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and Other Backward Classes, the Karnataka Souharda Cooperative (Amendment) Bill-2024 will be tabled by the State government in the Budget session starting Monday.

Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H.K. Patil told presspersons here after the Cabinet meeting that once the Bill is passed, reservation will be implemented in more than 25,000 cooperative societies and institutions across the State.

"The reservation will come into effect for all nominations to administrative boards of middle level, federal, and apex body of cooperative institutions," he said, adding that the at least one women will get a chance to be nominated in each of the more than 25,000 cooperative institutions besides representation for SCs/STs and OBCs going up. He, however, said that the quantum of reservation will be part of the Bill.

Equal voting rights

The Cabinet also approved the Karnataka Cooperative Societies (Amendment) Bill, 2024, that seeks to provide equal voting rights to all members of the societies and seeks to abolish Karnataka Cooperative Election Authority. It seeks to create Election Department under Director of Cooperative department.

The Cabinet decided to withdraw the Karnataka Transgenic And Genetically Modified Cotton Seeds (Fixation of Sale Price and Payment of Compensation) Bill, 2015, which was pending awaiting Presidential assent.

The decision was taken since the Union Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Department felt that the State law was not needed since the sale of seeds is inter -State and price control rule 2015 had been notified.

Phone for anganwadi workers

Among other decisions, it also approved purchase of 75,938 smart phones at a cost of ₹89.61 crore to be distributed to anganwadi workers under the Integrated Child Development project's Poshan Abhiyan. Each phone will cost ₹11,800 and will aid in tracking the implementation of Poshan Abhiyan that will integrate nutrition projects for women and children.

It also approved changes to Karnataka Administrative Service Rules to reduce the minimum years of service for promotion in KAS (super time scale) and KAS (selection grade) as a one-time measure. The proposed amendment will help as many as 45 KAS officers to get promotions.

'Unity Mall' to promote traditional craft, handloom

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Cabinet approved setting up "Unity Mall" to promote traditional handicraft, handloom, and Geographical Indications (GI) products at Mysuru. It will come up on 6.5 acres at the Dasara Exhibition Grounds at a cost of ₹193 crore and is part of One District One Product (ODOP) that will be funded through interest-free loan from the Centre. The project was announced in the 2023-2024 Union Budget. The project is to promote heritage products of the State and economic opportunities as part of tourism, and will introduce the State's rich heritage to the tourists.

INBRIEF

Zomato to set up its largest warehouse in Bengaluru

Zomato will have its largest warehousing space in the country at Sumadhura Logistics Park on Hoskote-Chintamani Road on the outskirts of Bengaluru. City-based Sumadhura Group has leased three lakh sq.ft built-to-suit warehousing space to Zomato, the logistics infrastructure firm said on Thursday. Sumadhura Group made an initial investment of ₹600 crore in the first phase of Sumadhura Logistics Park, a 100-acre infrastructure offering 2.5 million sq.ft of commercial warehouse space. The company will increase the total warehouse space at Sumadhura Logistics Park to six million sq.ft in the next phase, it said. "This is a strategic move for our group, driven by the increasing demand for warehousing solutions in Bengaluru, particularly in East Bengaluru and surrounding areas," said Madhusudhan G., CMD, Sumadhura Group.

E-paper edition

The Hindu offers more coverage of Bengaluru in the e-paper edition. (epaper.thehindu.com)

In the issue dated February 9, we have an explainer on the new uniform fare introduced by the Karnataka government for all cabs in Bengaluru, including those using aggregator platforms like Ola and Uber, and traditional city taxis.

Text & Context and Science

Weekday features on *The Hindu* epaper (epaper.thehindu.com) carries explainers, special articles and quizzes. In the latest issue (February 09, Friday), the following explainers are available:

- The Paytm Payments Bank debacle **bit.ly/paytmcrisisexp**
- With CRISPR poised to revolutionise therapy, a pause to consider ethical issues **bit.ly/therapyissues**

You can use your smartphone's inbuilt features to access this article. If it's an Android phone, use Google Lens to read and tap the url to access the article. If it's an iPhone, use Live Text on camera to do the same.

Hope Farm electrocution: Expert committee highlights infrastructural shortcomings in Bescom after probe

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The spot near Hope Farm in Bengaluru where a woman and her child were electrocuted. FILE PHOTO

A report submitted by an expert committee on the electrocution of a 23-year-old woman and her baby at Hope Farm junction in November has highlighted that the quality of construction by Bangalore Electricity Supply Company (Bescom) has come down due to the lack of awareness about existing standards and practices.

The expert committee was headed by S. Sumanth, former Director (Transmission), KPTCL, and consisted of three other members, including Prabhakar, Joint director, Central Power Research Institute. The committee mentioned a lack of strict checks at the time of commissioning infrastructure.

"After this stage, continuous monitoring of the safety regulations as stated in the Indian Electricity rules and manual of safety standards has to be implemented. A record of these needs to be maintained, as stipulated in the existing safety manuals, in order to prevent accidents in future," the report said.

While saying that the standards and practices should be strictly followed, the committee also recommended that specifications for procurement of distribution equipment should be upgraded.

After an inspection of the accident spot, the committee listed out many infrastructural shortcomings like how instead of a Coyote conductor, a rabbit conductor (whose capacity is only 150 amp) was installed for about three spans of the overhead line. However, the peak load on the feeder is 200 amps. A continuous overload of about 35% could have made it weak, the report said. Earth guard stirrups, which are a standard construction practice of Bescom, were absent at the accident spot. These stirrups provide earthing to the conductors when they snap and prevent them from falling on to surfaces like concrete, which are poor conductors of electricity. Due to the resistance between the footpath and the conductor, there was no sufficient flow of current to the conductor, which is why the conductor did not trip after test charging, the report explained.

"What is most concerning is the presence of the OFC cables on the electric pole at the spot," Mr. Sumanth said. "These were unauthorised OFC cables. The OFC workers themselves could have been electrocuted any time they were drawing these wires. The OFC cables should maintain a safe distance from electric wires," he said. "This practice of allowing OFC wires on poles should be dispensed with. Also, OFC wires crossing HT and LT lines should be strictly dispensed with immediate effect," the report recommended.

The panel gave several short- and medium-term actions for Bescom to prevent accidents. "As per the report, Director (Technical) has been told to implement the recommendations. We have instructed all field officers to include the cost of the implementations in their budgets. They will be implemented soon," said Mahantesh Bilagi, MD, Bescom.

Cong. workers taken into custody

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

The Chikkamagaluru police took Congress workers, who tried to disrupt an event by Namo Brigade in Chikkamagaluru, into custody on Thursday. They were opposing the participation of Chakravathi Sulibele in the programme.

Dr. SPM International Institute of Information Technology - Naya Raipur (IIIT-NR)
Sector-24, Nava Raipur, Atal Nagar - 493661 (Chhattisgarh)

RECRUITMENT NOTICE

Dr. SP Mukherjee IIIT-Naya Raipur invites application from eligible candidates for recruitment to the following post on **Deputation basis:-**

Name of Post	No. of Post	Pay Level (7th CPC)
Registrar	01	14

For details and last date of application please visit the website of IIIT-Naya Raipur
https://www.iiitnr.ac.in/content/careers

Director
IIIT-Naya Raipur

EDUCATION HUB — A Business Initiative

Reva University Celebrates 75th Republic Day

On the occasion of the 75th Republic Day, REVA University, one of the pioneers in higher education, celebrated Republic Day on the campus with great patriotic zeal and fervour. In keeping with the tradition of Reva University, the Indian Tricolour flag was unfurled by Dr. P. Shyama Raju, Chancellor of Reva University. This was followed by the singing of the national anthem. On this Republic Day, Reva University renews its commitment to contributing to the nation by producing well-rounded, innovative, and socially responsible leaders. The university remains steadfast in its mission to empower students to navigate the complexities of the future and contribute meaningfully to the progress of India.

Alliance University Celebrates Republic Day with a Pledge for Zero Hunger

Alliance University, Bengaluru, celebrated the 75th Republic Day with a pronounced commitment to Sustainable Development Goal 2: Zero Hunger. The ceremony commenced with the hoisting of our national flag by Smt. Shaila Chebbi, Advisor, Pro-Chancellor of Alliance University, and Smt. Niveditha Mishra, Registrar of Alliance University. The parade march by students, NSS department members, office staff, and security guards symbolized the powerful expression of unity and patriotism. Followed by a symbolic bike rally, with students and staff riding in unison through the campus, highlighting the spirit of unity and commitment to sustainable transportation practices. Followed by a welcome dance, there was an enlightening address by Dr B. Priestly Shan Pro VC. Toward the end of his speech, he said, 'Success comes with constant and permanent efforts.' The celebration continued with a musical performance, adding a cultural dimension to the event. The Chief of NSS, in an address marked by simplicity and formality, highlighted Alliance University's commitment to SDG 2: Zero Hunger, realized through the adoption of villages as a tangible step towards community development. The Republic Day celebration not only venerated the day the Constitution of India came into effect but also echoed Alliance University's commitment to sustainable development, community welfare, and global collaboration, reaffirming its role in nurturing responsible and globally conscious citizens.

International Conference on Advances in Forensic Science (ICAFS)

The Department of Forensic Science at Kristu Jayanti College Autonomous organised a two-day International Conference on Advances in Forensic Science (ICAFS). The conference was inaugurated by Dr. Vinod J Lakkappan, Deputy Director, Karnataka State Forensic Science Laboratory, Bengaluru. The conference brought together leading forensic experts, researchers, and practitioners from India and abroad. Research work of delegates were presented during the oral and poster presentations. This conference provided a platform to share knowledge on recent advances in forensic science and their applications in criminal justice delivery. The conference aimed to inspire young scientists and researchers, and strengthen forensic education thereby serving to meet the increasing demand for trained forensic professionals in India. The event saw participation from forensic experts representing various forensic science labs, law enforcement agencies, judiciary as well as faculty and students from various academic institutions across India.

Inauguration of the Sports Glory-2024 Games organized at BGS Group of Institutions

Adi Chunchanagiri Shri Nirmalanandanath Swamiji speaking while inaugurating the Sports Glory-2024 Games organized at BGS said expressing his concern that most of the people in the urban areas are suffering from diseases like diabetes. The all-round development of the human being will be affected by the lack of exercise and lifestyle. He said that if some time of the day is reserved for sports, physical and mental health will improve. Santhosh Menon, former secretary of KSCA said Success will be there with continuous hard work and not to be dettered by setbacks. PS officer Ravikanthe Gowda said that in the changed scenario, the field of sports has become a way of shaping life. BGS and SJB Group Managing Director Dr. Prakashanath Swamiji, International Badminton Player Ceshita, International Cricketer D. Ganesh, Actor Ravi Chetan and others were present.

Kristu Jayanti College NCC Band awarded the first place in 75th Republic Day Parade in Karnataka

Kristu Jayanti College NCC Band team, a first ever NCC band team of Karnataka and Goa directorate was awarded with first place in the 75th Republic Day Parade, held in Manekshaw Parade Ground. The award was received by Band Major- JUO Shrikanth from honourable Governor of Karnataka Shri Thawar Chand Gehlot. Honourable Governor highly appreciated the tireless efforts of the NCC cadets who marched briskly fueling the flags to fly high. The band has been led by Capt. Dr. Sarvesh B.S and Lt. Kushbu Ravichandran ANO of Kristu Jayanti College NCC. Rev. Fr. Dr. Augustine George, Principal, Kristu Jayanti College, Autonomous appreciated the NCC Band for their hard work, recognition and excellent performance in the State Republic Day Parade. Commanding Officer of 3Kar Bn NCC Lt. Col. Damodaran P.P also appreciated the KJC NCC band for their consistent outstanding performance.

Alert ERSS police team feted for rescuing woman in nick of time

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A woman, after a fight with her in-laws, walked out of the house along with her minor children, recently before calling 112.

An Emergency Response Support System (ERSS) team of Doddaballapur police station comprising police constables Abhishek and Shivaraj reached within a few minutes and found that the mobile phone of the complainant was switched off.

The duo, with the help of control room staff, managed to track down her location from the last call and started searching for her. While passing by a dilapidated house, the police personnel heard the cry of children and broke open the door to find the woman attempting to end her life.

The duo managed to rescue her before rushing her to the hospital along with the children. The woman is presently under treatment and the police are probing the case.

Superintendent of Police, Bengaluru District, Mallikarjuna Baladandi on Wednesday, felicitated the two police personnel personnel.

Woman, two others held for killing truck driver

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Madanayakanahalli police cracked the case of the murder of a 30-year-old truck driver in record time and arrested three people, including a 26-year-old woman who allegedly trapped the victim over phone.

The police on February 2 found the body of Srinivasa K.T. in front of the APMC market in Dasanapura in a pool of blood, indicating that he was tortured and beaten to death. The call record details led to the arrest of Rabiya, 26, from Neelasandra, who was the last person to call Srinivasa. Based on her information, the police arrested her husband Khaisar Pasha, 30, a habitual offender, and his friend Nagendra Kumar, 26, from Gauribidanur.

Investigations revealed that had an illicit affair with Nagendra's wife and later started harassing her seeking sexual favours. Unable to bear the harassment, she told Nagendra about the affair. Enraged, Nagendra took the help of his friend Khaisar Pasha and decided to trap Srinivasa. They confronted Srinivasa outside the APMC market and tortured and assaulted him before stabbing him to death.

Savandurga hill, about 60 km west of Bengaluru, is among the largest monolithic hills in Asia. K. MURALI KUMAR

Karnataka's troubled trekking trails

In the name of adventure tourism, people are leaving heavy carbon footprints on the State's 23 hiking routes. As the trash piles up, plastic pollution threatens biodiversity, say environmentalists. **Jahnavi T.R.** looks at the challenge of balancing the enthusiasm of hobby climbers and the need for conservation

Trekkers at one of the Western Ghat ranges in Kodagu. FILE PHOTO

On Republic Day, 954 trekkers who had tickets and over a thousand more who had shown up with the hope of getting tickets had gathered near the entry point of Kumara Parvatha. The fourth highest peak in Karnataka, at a height of 1,700 metres, it is situated in the ecologically fragile Pushpagiri Wildlife Sanctuary, whose entry point is in the Dakshina Kannada district in the Western Ghats. Videos of the overcrowding went viral; so did complaints of plastic bags, bottles, and leftover food that littered the forest.

The alarming number of people raised concerns about the threat posed by unregulated trekking across the State. With environmentalists raising concerns, the Environment Minister of Karnataka, Eshwar Khandre, imposed a temporary ban on trekking in Kumara Parvatha and other trekking paths in the State. He said they would be opened only after a standard operating procedure (SOP) is put in place.

Kumara Parvatha is managed by the Madikeri division of the Forest Department, with other trails like Kuduremukh being managed by their respective divisions. However the bulk of the trails – 23 trekking spots – fall under the Karnataka Ecotourism Development Board (KEDB), a wing of the Forest Department. As many as 1,13,243 people visited these between April and December 2023, bringing in a revenue of ₹3.73 crore. This is a significant increase from the entire previous financial year of April 2022 to March 2023, when there were 96,796 visitors (₹2.88 crore revenue). In 2021-22, when COVID-19 regulations were in place, 61,023 trekkers scaled the hills (₹1.45 crore).

Visitors atop Revanasiddeshwara Betta. K. MURALI KUMAR

Skandagiri in Chickballapur district, around 60 kilometres from Bengaluru, was the most popular trekking stretch with 45,018 visitors in 2023, bringing in ₹1.72 crore. This was followed by Makalidurga in Bengaluru Rural district, which had 15,454 visitors; Antharagange in Kolar district, which had 13,272 visitors; and Savandurga in Ramanagara district, with 8,069 visitors.

The way it works

Trekking paths must be booked online beforehand, and each has a limited number of slots per day (100 to 350). The online government portal – Karnatakaecotourism.com – is supposed to provide trekkers with guide services and first aid. However, regular trekkers have noticed that, except in a few places, on-ground regulation is poor.

"Except for Skandagiri and Makalidurga, forest guards are not available anywhere else even to check the head count. In the absence of guides, it is easy to get lost at some of these treks," said Satyananda. M, a regular trekker who has covered most trails maintained by the KEDB. He adds that at the top of many hills, vendors sell soft drinks and instant noodles, and there is no waste management system. "If visitors are being charged for going down these trails, there must be regulation and accountability," he said. Most regular trekkers praise the Kuduremukha National Park for its well-regulated, well-organised treks to three peaks in the area.

> Trekking should be conducted in a way that the activity does not affect nature. If the number of visitors increases, roads will be developed. Such developments lead to landslips during heavy rains.
>
> **NAGARAJ KOOVE**
> Environmentalist

Trekkers at the Devaragadde checkpost near Kukke Subrahmanya in Dakshina Kannada, which is the starting point of the trek to Kumara Parvatha peak, on January 26.

Officials are aware of the lax maintenance of rules at many trails. Kumar Pushkar, the Chief Executive Officer of KEDB, said guards on some trails were not as diligent, and there was scope for improvement. He also said the KEDB was actively trying to bring about stricter vigilance at all trekking points. Citing one such example, he said, "At Savandurga, I have now asked the Deputy Conservator of Forest (DCF) to completely fence the area and ensure that there is only one entry point to stop illegal entries. A guard will be posted to check the tickets."

Ecological damage

The foremost concern about unregulated treks is the damage they cause to the biodiversity of the region. Capturing the concerns of nature enthusiasts and environmentalists, D.S.D. Solanki, who has been organising treks for 37 years, says, poetically, "Instead of leaving just their footprints, people only leave trash, mostly plastic, behind now."

At the trails where guards are present, sometimes all the plastic is taken away before people start their treks. At some other places, they count the number of plastic items before and after the trek and fine violators if there is a discrepancy. On most trails that are well guarded, bags are tied to trees, like makeshift garbage bins to stop littering.

Pushkar said the key to avoiding littering also lies in bringing all the trek trails under the SOP. "When we send a guide with the trekkers if they try to litter, the guides will stop them from doing it," he said. Solanki also raised the issue of human waste. "If thousands of people go up on a trail like Kumara Parvatha, and all of them attend to the nature's call over there, then even that is a contributor to the ecological imbalance in the forest."

Nagaraj Koove, an environmentalist and coordinator of the Biodiversity, Environment and Agriculture Study Centre (BEAS) in Sringeri, felt that uncontrolled trekking, while harming biodiversity, also affects the local public. "Trekking should be conducted in a way that the activity does not affect nature. If the number of visitors increases, roads will be developed. Such developments lead to landslips during heavy rains," he said.

There is also the inconvenience to people living in the area. On weekends, with hundreds visiting Devaramane and Yettina Bhuja hills in Chikkamagaluru district and Kodachadri Hills in Shivamogga district, the roads leading to these locations get congested. With no restriction on the number of visitors per day, holiday seasons invariably result in traffic jams and parking hassles. "Committees involving local people should be constituted to monitor trekking. As it is the practice in northeastern States, local people should be given responsibilities," he said.

Pushkar said locals are being trained near many trails to take on responsibilities as supervisors. KEDB is also planning to create washroom facilities and hire people to manage them.

Safety concerns

In December, Gagandeep Singh, a native of Uttar Pradesh who had been working in Bengaluru, went missing in Savandurga after being separated from his friend. Five days later, he was found dead by Forest Department officials. The hill is now temporarily closed for trekking. Such accidents have occurred several times in Savandurga, which is known to be dangerous due to its steep and slippery geographical features.

A 24-year-old techie from Chennai was part of a team that planned a trekking expedition in the Western Ghats near Sakaleshpur during the rains in July 2014. He was separated from the team and was lost in the forests for three days. On the fourth day, somehow, he reached the Hassan-Mangaluru highway to safety.

The Forest Department, which had no clue about the trekking expedition, booked a case against the trekkers under Section 24 of the Karnataka Forest Act, 1963, for entering the reserve forest without permission. There have been a few such incidents in parts of Hassan and Chikkamagaluru districts in recent years.

Mandalapatti in Kodagu district, nestled among picturesque hills, shot to fame after the hit Kannada film *Galipata* showed it as Mugilupete (translating to 'town of clouds'). After a series of accidents in December, the local authorities banned the use of private vehicles to access the hill. Local resident Bopanna K.B. said numerous tourists who lack hill-driving skills are using their personal vehicles on roads intended only for SUVs, resulting in an increase in accidents.

The exact number of accidents that have happened on trekking trails is not available to government officials. However, Pushkar said most of these accidents during treks happen due to people climbing up the hills in an unregulated manner. He said the KEDB will look into locating the nearest hospitals or healthcare centres in case a medical emergency arises during a trek.

The rush to the top

Environmentalists express concern over the reason people trek. "Previously, those who were interested in nature and wildlife conservation, wildlife photography, and adventure used to go trekking. Now, people are going there for social media, to take selfies and videos there," Solanki said, adding that homestays sometimes played loud music and had scant respect for the locals and wildlife. "Even trekkers who go up the hills play music on their Bluetooth speakers, ruining the experience for other interested trekkers," he added.

Although many nature enthusiasts have called for a complete ban on trekking activities in forests, especially in the eco-sensitive Western Ghats, Minister Khandre said restricting nature lovers would be difficult. He said measures would be taken to ensure that no harm was done to the ecology due to trekking activities.

There is no clarity on when the SOPs will be formalised. With the next few months being the season for forest fires followed by the monsoon, the forest officials' concerns remain to safeguard the forests while making safety provisions for trekkers. A new Eco Tourism Policy, announced by Khandre a few months ago, is also expected to come into being soon.

(With inputs from Sathish G.T. and Darshan Devaiah B.P.)

Gutsy, go-getter

Bollywood actor Bhumi Pednekar, who plays an independent journalist in her upcoming thriller on Netflix, opens up on her career, comic skills, and more

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In her upcoming film, *Bhakshak*, Bhumi Pednekar plays Vaishali, a gutsy independent journalist who unearths a crime in a shelter home for girls. Directed by Pulkit and bankrolled by Red Chillies Entertainment, the film premieres on Netflix on February 9.

Bhumi is known for headlining female-oriented movies. *Bhakshak* comes on the back of *Thank You For Coming,* in which she plays a woman seeking love and sexual pleasure, and *Afwaah,* a hard-hitting political drama. *Bhakshak* is yet another film that reflects the issues of society, says Bhumi.

Excerpts from the interview

Q: Going by the trailer, you seem to have delivered an understated performance in Bhakshak, *as a journalist reporting a serious issue. What can you tell us about the character you play?*
A: Vaishali is an independent journalist in a small town who wants to do her job with dignity and integrity.Vaishali isn't a cop with the power of her badge or a gun; she manages her job with a small camera, a cameraman, and a van. She is a regular woman dealing with everyday issues. She is guts and glory, but she doesn't wear it on her sleeve because the character had to be relatable.

Q:Where did you draw references to play this atypical journalist?
A: The world that Vaishali belongs to is the independent circuit of media. They are the media professionals who hit the nook of crisis before most successful journalists. I went through the YouTube channels of these independent journalists and I was curious about how they find news stories without adequate resources. My director, who is a phenomenal filmmaker, gave me further inputs about the character.

Q:Is Bhakshak *a reflection of the trial by media or does it unfold like a powerful social drama? What makes it different from other such thrillers?*
A: The film intends to knock into our consciousness. We witness an accident and stop to take a video. You hear loud noises from the house next door and don't intervene to see if the children and women there are fine or not. We are unaffected by things others undergo and the film wants to tap into that. *Bhakshak* is a socio-drama thriller where Vaishali fights for orphan children that nobody knows exist.

Q:You seem to be a dependable performer for movies we broadly call female-oriented. How do you think it happened? Did you consciously chase such roles?
A: I think I got a little lucky with my first movie *Dum Laga Ke Haisha*. It set the tone for my career. My choices after that worked commercially and critically. I found a group of filmmakers who showed faith in me as an actor. Also, I was exposed to films high on content because of my mother (Sumitra Pednekar, anti-tobacco activist); I grew up watching films such as *Bazaar* (1982) and *Mandi* (1983).

Q: In Thank You For Coming, *you had to entertain and also ensure the film's message reaches the audience. How did you crack the character?*
A: *Thank You For Coming* was home turf for me. I know women like her. Generally, in our movies, urban female problems are not considered serious. That made doing *Thank You For Coming* exciting. My character isn't ideal, and the idea wasn't to create a quintessential heroine. She isn't perfect because she is real.

Q:Do you think the film deserved more love?
A: There was an accusation about the film not defending our culture, and I was surprised. I realised that I had to do more of these films. *Thank You For Coming* is the personal story of many women and I received a lot of love when the film was released digitally. It will remain one of the important films of my career.

Q:Does comedy come naturally to you, or is it a skill you have honed over the years?
A: . *Pati Patni Aur Woh* was a romantic comedy. In that film, the dialogues were very crucial. If you don't deliver such dialogues in the metre they are written, you aren't going to be funny. In *Thank You For Coming* and *Shubh Mangal Zyada Saavdhan*, the scope for improvisation is more as they are character-driven. *Badhaai Do* is a sensitive movie that deals with its subject in a humorous tone. So, every movie improves your skills.

Q: Films like Bheed *and* Afwaah, *talk about the times we are living in. Was it a challenge for these films to cater to the masses?*
A: The audiences' taste changes every two years. Look at *12th Fail*. It's not your so-called big-screen spectacle, but it is entertaining and realistic. Films like *Bheed* or *Afwaah* will always find an audience when they drop on OTT.

Hard hitting reality Bhumi Pednekar in stills from *Bhakshak*. NETFLIX

Allure of the obscured

The eyes say it all at Stritva, a solo art show by Saurabh Sadanand Dingare, that is currently underway in the city

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Anything that is partially revealed holds an irresistible allure – be it a veil, a wide-brimmed hat or even something as unromantic as a pair of over-sized sunglasses. For artist Saurabh Sadanand Dingare, it is the *nath* or nose ring. In Stritva, his ongoing exhibition at Vasantha Art Gallery, the emphasis on this captivating ornament draws attention to the facial expressions of the subject.

Based out of Pune, Saurabh says he was always drawn to art, but as a career choice the path was carved out for him in childhood itself. "My mother was an art teacher and my father's best friend was also into art. My parents wished that at least one of us would choose art as a career and since I seemed most artistically inclined among my siblings, I was given the chance to pursue it."

Saurabh adds the family came to this decision when he was still in class V and after he completed class XII, he pursued a Diploma in Art Education from J J School of Art in Mumbai; he also has a Masters in Creative Painting. "This is a self-developed style of painting since antiques and traditional items fascinate me. My inspiration comes from whatever I see that appeals to me and I try to capture that in my own style of painting."

Compelling gaze

While his work mostly depicts women, the *nath* has been his muse for close to a decade now. "Huge nose pins have been the norm in my family, along with other traditional adornments such as the nine-yard sari. And of course, at weddings and on special occasions, their grandeur is more pronounced."

Though the *nath* is prominent in his work, Saurabh says, "It is the expressions of the eyes that speak volumes, that is why they are depicted in larger than usual proportions."

True enough, big beautiful eyes lined with kajal draw your gaze, while the lower half of the face is overshadowed by elaborate nose pins.

Look this way Art by Saurabh Sadanand Dingare at Stritva. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Patience, playfulness, longsuffering, coyness, dedication, concentration, content and a plethora of other emotions peek out of those windows to the soul, in this artist's work.

According to Saurabh, the Stritva series captures feminine strength and energy, without whose influence no one would go too far. "We are nothing without the women in our lives and I believe each woman's essence is unique. My work is an attempt to capture these various personas whether they are goddesses or the everyday women in our lives."

Depicted in stances familiar to home and hearth, Saurabh says he finds his inspiration from those around him. While I don't reveal who these figures are, viewers usually endow them with the traits or characteristics of a mother, sister, wife or daughter, he adds.

Executed with mixed media of water colours, acrylic and ink, the Stritva series comprises around 30 works which were created over the better part of a year.

Stritva by Saurabh S Dingare, will be on display till February 29 at Vasantha Art Gallery, Hotel Grand Mercure, Gopalan Signature Mall.

All for one, one for all

Karanataka Kalotsava 2024, which begins on February 9, will be held across the city till February 24

Art galore Artistes Umakant Gundecha and Anant Gundecha will be performing a Dhrupad duet. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

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ArtMantram, a 25-year old NGO, based in Bengaluru will host a 10-day cultural extravaganza, across the city. Called Karnataka Kalotsava 2024, the event will be a "celebration of music, dance and theatre," says Raji Narayan, the president of ArtMantram, who adds that the trust was started by IPS Jija Hari Singh.

"I have been associated with ArtMantram for the past 16 years. We are an NGO that is into promoting art and artisans, organising events to create art awareness. We believe art is inclusive. It should be a part of society and accessible to everyone, not just elite," says Raji, over a call from her residence in Bengaluru.

"Till date, we have organised over 500 events and a range of workshops, programmes and camps to take this initiative forward. I also believe we have made a significant impact through our work on the landscape of the art scene in Karnataka. We see the Karnataka Kalotsava as an extension of our everyday work," says Raji, adding that this is their second edition of the Karnataka Kalotsava.

"The first was in 2020, in the middle of the pandemic. We created a hybrid model so everyone could access events through virtual platforms. We saw a positive response which helped us generate funds for artisans and artistes."

Besides organising events and art camps, Raji shares that they "also organise livelihood projects for tribals in Bandipur, underprivileged children and special art camps for children battling cancer. We have conducted multiple programmes at KIDWAI as we believe art heals".

The 2024 edition will happen across various venues of the city, for better audience access.

At a glance

February 9: Sammilana, a dance performance by Rupesh Arangam Dance Ensemble at Ravindra Kalakshetra, 6pm
February 11: Naam Ghum Jayega, by Ramachandra Hadapad and team at Samsa Bayalu, 5.30pm
February 12: *Gulabi Gang*, Kannada play at Nayana Auditorium, 7pm.
February 13: Concert by Invisible Orchestra at St Joseph's School auditorium, Richmond Road, 5.30pm.
For the rest of schedule and other details log on to www.artmantram.org or call 9740954366.

STEPOUT

Mirror, mirror

Vishwapatha Kala Sangama will stage its Kannada play *Pukkate Salahe* (Free Suggestion). The play, written by renowned writer H Dundiraj, has already staged 73 shows. The plot is a humorous satire based on a TV show that claims to solve problems based on astrology. *Pukkate Salahe* is directed by Ashok B.
On February 10, at 5pm and 7.30pm at Dr C Ashwath Kala Bhavana, NR Colony. Call 9945977184/ 9916863637 for tickets.

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INBRIEF

Jobs to medical aid, petitions aplenty at Janaspandana

The pleas received at the Janaspandana programme varied from request for medical relief for critical ailments, jobs, financial assistance for taking up self employment by physically challenged to resolution of petitions pending with the Revenue Department. Visually-challenged youth Sharana Basava Kumar came all the way from Kampli of Ballari to personally request the Chief Minister for financial assistance to take up self-employment. The Chief Minister assured him of providing assistance from the CM's Relief Fund.

On-the-spot sanction of relief for medical issues

Many had lined up seeking financial assistance for availing medical treatment for critical ailments. The Chief Minister ordered financial relief on the spot for several of them. Those who got such benefits included Vijaykumar from Ramanagara district, who was sanctioned ₹4 lakh for kidney transplant, Basanagouda Biradar from Vijayapura district, who was sanctioned ₹4 lakh for bone marrow transplant, and eight-year-old Shambhavi from Tumakuru district was sanctioned ₹50,000 to buy hearing aid.

Appeal by Mahabodhi Research Centre for funds

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, who received a plea from Mahabodhi Research Centre, seeking grant of ₹20 lakh for renovation of a Buddhist spiritual library in Bengaluru, assured them of examining the request. He also assured Lumbini Buddha Vihara Institute of examining their request for a grant of ₹100 crore in the State Budget.

Over 20,000 turn up with 12,372 petitions at second Janaspandana

While many petitions were addressed on the spot, Chief Minister set one-month deadline for officers to dispose of the rest

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah receiving petitions from the public at the Janaspandana programme at the Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru on Thursday and (right) people submitting applications at the event. SUDHAKARA JAIN

The second edition of the State-level Janaspandana, a public grievance redressal programme held by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah in Bengaluru on Thursday, evoked massive response with over 20,000 people attending it with 12,372 petitions on various grievances.

On-the-spot redressal was provided to 246 petitioners at the event held on the premises of the Vidhana Soudha, while the remaining 12,126 petitions have been forwarded to authorities concerned for resolution.

The highest number of grievances were related to the Revenue Department as it received 3,150 petitions while the Housing Department stood second with 1,500 petitions, followed by Women and Child Welfare Department that received 903 petitions.

Mr. Siddaramaiah, who attended to the people at the day-long event which stretched past late evening, gave a deadline of one month to the officials concerned to dispose of the remaining petitions.

He instructed Deputy Commissioners and district in charge Secretaries to redress the grievances of petitioners coming under their jurisdiction in a time-bound manner. He put the onus of redressing grievances on the administrative authorities of districts, particularly DCs, CEOs of zilla panchayats, and SPs, while reminding them that people would not come all the way to Bengaluru seeking resolution of their problems if their applications are disposed of locally.

Govt. to doorstep

Emphasising on the need to "take the government to the doorsteps of people", Mr. Siddaramaiah said the district in charge Ministers had already held 108 Janaspandana programmes at district- and taluk-levels so far. He told the general public that they could bring their petitions to the Janaspandana programme to be chaired by him if they do not get a resolution at taluk and district-level meets. He said that if it is not possible within the legal framework to resolve the issues mentioned in the petitions, then an endorsement with appropriate reasons would be issued to applicants.

Meanwhile, Mr. Siddaramaiah pointed out that 98% of the petitions received in the first State-level Janaspandana held on November 27, 2023, had been disposed. of. As many as 4,030 applications had been received during the first event.

He also used the occasion to appeal to people not to pay heed to the claims by the BJP that the guarantee schemes of the government would be stopped later. He said the government had taken up such programmes as it believed in Constitutional values.

KPSC issue: Job aspirants seek action against Chairman

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The ongoing squabbling in the Karnataka Public Service Commission (KPSC) reached the State-level Janaspandana held by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Thursday with some of the job aspirants submitting a petition in this regard.

Petition to CM

In the petition, the signatories, who identified themselves as job aspirants, expressed concern over the delay in notification of new jobs and announcement of list of selected candidates by the Karnataka Public Service Commission due to the alleged indifferent attitude of the commission Chairman, Shivashankarappa S. Sahukar.

They demanded the intervention of the Chief Minister to protect the interests of job aspirants.

They also expressed concern over Karnataka Public Service Commission Secretary Latha Kumari being at the receiving end for trying to protect the interests of job aspirants and acting as per law.

'Did Modi's remarks against Centre as Gujarat CM not pose threat to country's integrity?'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has hit back at Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his remarks that Wednesday's "Delhi Chalo" protest of the Congress against alleged injustice in devolution of funds by the Centre had posed a threat to the country's integrity and sovereignty.

Mr. Siddaramaiah accused the Prime Minister of pursuing "politics of self-deception" by making a U-turn from the stand that he took against the Centre as the then Chief Minister of Gujarat. He recalled a series of statements by Mr. Modi as Chief Minister of Gujarat against the Centre with respect to devolution of the State's share of taxes.

Taking to social media, Mr. Siddaramaiah asked: "How is it that threat to the country's integrity, which did not surface when he raised his voice as the then CM of Gujarat against the Centre over devolution of tax share, is surfacing now when we Kannadigas raise our voice?"

Mr. Siddaramaiah recalled that Mr. Modi had spoken against the Central Finance Commission. As the Gujarat Chief Minister, he had wondered on December 6, 2012, if Gujarat was a beggar State while saying that Gujarat was contributing ₹60,000 crore to the Centre annually, but was getting back meagre funds from the Centre, he said.

"He had questioned the very existence of the Union government in 2008 when he had wondered why Gujarat should not be allowed to keep all its tax collection for itself instead of passing it on to the Centre. He had made the remark while stating that Gujarat was contributing ₹40,000 crore of tax to the Centre annually but was getting a meagre share of 2.5%," Mr. Siddaramaiah recalled.

Mr. Siddaramaiah also pointed out that Mr. Modi had then demanded 32% to 50% State share from the taxes being collected by the Centre from the States during his interaction with 14th Finance Commission.

"Mr. Modi had argued that the Finance Commission should change the parameters being followed for devolution of taxes. He had argued that the present method was ignoring States with prudent financial management by encouraging States that have failed in financial management. Was it not an anti-Centre stand?" he said.

Accusing former Chief Ministers Basavaraj Bommai and H.D. Kumaraswamy too of pursuing politics of self-deception, he alleged that Mr. Bommai as the then Chief Minister had admitted on the floor of the Assembly that injustice had been meted out to Karnataka by the 15th Finance Commission. Similarly, Mr. Kumaraswamy had alleged that the Centre had meted out injustice to Karnataka by giving more funds to Gujarat, he said.

KPTCL can issue appointment letters to 404 candidates selected as assistant engineers: High Court

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka has permitted the Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Ltd. (KPTCL) to appoint 404 selected candidates (313 non-Kalyana Karnataka and 91 Kalyana Karnataka) to the posts of assistant engineers, subject to the court's final orders.

The court said that KPTCL should make it clear in the letters that the appointment shall be subject to outcome of the writ appeals pending for final adjudication.

A Division Bench passed the interim order on a batch of appeals by around 55 aspiring candidates.

The appellants questioned the correctness of a single judge's August 22, 2023, order quashing the revised key answers and revised provisional list announced by the Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) on February 4, 2023.

The Bench made it clear said that if the appellant candidates succeed and if they are selected, their appointments should be made by properly fixing the seniority and roster point; 404 candidates, who would be appointed pursuant to this interim order, shall not claim equity.

"We are conscious of the fact that KPTCL falls under the 'essential services' category and requires engineers," the Bench said while allowing KPTCL to issue appointment letters to 404 candidates. Though 501 candidates were found eligible in the exam, only 404 candidates were shortlisted for appointment after applying roaster and reservation, the KPTCL said.

The KPTCL had in February 2022 entrusted KEA with the task of conducting exams for the aspiring candidates and preparing a list of eligible candidates, who secure the prescribed minimum marks, for filling 505 posts of assistant engineers.

The KEA had notified final key answers on December 27, 2022, based on the expert committee's report after considering objections received for the provisional answer keys. Later, KEA notified provisional list of eligible candidates on January 3, 2023, and had invited objections. However, KEA revised both the final key answers and the provisional list on February 4, 2023, after it received objections for the provisional list.

The single judge, acting on petitions by some candidates, had held that KEA had no power to revise the final answer keys notified on December 27, 2022.

Vantamuri case: CID submits chargesheet

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

Officers of the Criminal Investigation Department have completed the investigation into the alleged assault on a woman in Hosa Vantamuri village in Belagavi district by a mob that was upset after her son escaped with a girl he loved in December last year.

Investigators identified 13 accused, including five women and a child in conflict with law. Most of them are the girl's relatives. All the accused, except one, are in jail. The child in conflict with law is at an observation home.

The chargesheet against 12 accused was filed in the court of the fourth judicial magistrate first class on Wednesday. A separate chargesheet was filed against the child on Thursday.

The chargesheet against the adults include attempt to murder, using criminal force to obstruct duty of public servant, criminal assault, and outraging the modesty of a woman. They were filed in less than 60 days of the offence, a city police officer coordinating with the CID, said. Initial investigation was done by a team of officers in Belagavi city and the Kakati police station. But within a few days, the State government transferred the case to the CID.

The resettlement village of Hosa Vantamuri hit the headlines when the boy and girl left the village on December 10. Relatives of the girl allegedly disrobed, paraded, and beat up the mother of the boy.

The marriage of the couple was registered in Belagavi sub-registrar office on January 30. The woman who was assaulted has recovered from her injuries. She is living with a relative near the city.

Tech start-up investment in State fell 72% in 2023: Study

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Karnataka's tech start-up ecosystem witnessed a decline in funding in 2023 compared to the previous year, said a study by Tracxn Technologies, a data intelligence market research platform.

Tech start-ups in the State received a funding of $3.4 billion in 2023, a 72% plunge from the $12.2 billion raised in 2022, and an 83% decline from the $20.4 billion raised in 2021.

"This decline could be attributed to the prevailing macroeconomic conditions and geopolitical issues," said the report released by Tracxn here on Thursday. It further said: "The funding trends witnessed in Karnataka was similar to that of the global trends." In terms of city-wise funding in 2023, Bengaluru was the leader. Start-ups based in the city raised $3.4 billion in 2023, while those based in Hubballi raised $121,000.

'The decline could be attributed to prevailing macroeconomic conditions and geopolitical issues'

At all ages

Early-stage funding in 2023 stood at $784 million in funding, a drop of 71% from the $2.7 billion raised during the previous year. Seed-stage funding fell 54% to $294 million from the $643 million raised in 2022. The calendar saw late stage investments also declining at 74% to $2.3 billion compared with $8.9 billion a year ago, the study said. On ticket size, the report found, only eight over $100 million funds happened in tech start-up space in 2023, as against 26 and 44 such rounds in 2022 and 2021, respectively. Further, no new unicorns emerged in this space in 2023, a sharp contrast from seven unicorns in 2022 and 18 in 2021.

Accel, Wellfound, and LetsVenture were the top investors in the State till date, said Tracxn. We Founder Circle, Y Combinator, and 100X.VC were the top seed-stage investors, Accel, Lightspeed Venture Partners, and Kalaari Capital led early-stage funding, while Footpath Ventures, Founders Circle Capital, and DST Global were the top late-stage investors.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

NINETEENTH ANNIVERSARY

Dr. Kamala Anandaram
10-05-1943 09-02-2005
Professor of Forensic Medicine (Retd)
Madras Medical College &
Thanjavur Medical College.

ETERNAL SUPPORT

Oh! our eternal support!
You are our mentor!
Guiding our ideas, words, deeds,
To receive bountiful rewards!!!
Many a test came our way;
Smiling you showed the right way!!
We enjoy blissful lives,
Guided by your charming smiles!!!

O.ANANDARAM,IRS(Rtd.),
Annapoorna (Daughter)
Mukund (Son in law),
Maanas & Yojan (Grandsons)
044-26211916
Cell No: 9444061916

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕುಟುಂಬ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ
ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಆಕುಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ,
ಎನ್.ಪಿ.ಸಿ.ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ ಆವರಣ, ನಜರ್‌ಬಾದ್, ಮೈಸೂರು – 10.
(E-mail: khsdrp.divmys@gmail.com)
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಆಕುಕ/ಇಂ.ವಿ./ಕಾ.ಅ/ಮೈ/ಸಇ–3&4/ಟೆಂಡರ್–27/2023–24
ದಿನಾಂಕ: 02.02.2024

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು, ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕುಟುಂಬ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಮೈಸೂರು ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಗೆ ಒಳಪಡುವ ಮೈಸೂರು/ಚಾಮರಾಜನಗರ/ಮಂಡ್ಯ/ಕೊಡಗು/ಹಾಸನ/ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರು/ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ಕನ್ನಡ ಹಾಗೂ ಉಡುಪಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿನ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು ಮಟ್ಟದ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ/ ಸಮುದಾಯ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಹಾಗೂ ಪ್ರಾಥಮಿಕ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಕೇಂದ್ರಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಮೂಲಭೂತ ಸೌಕರ್ಯ, ನವೀಕರಣ ಹಾಗೂ ದುರಸ್ಥಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳಲು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೊಂದಾಯಿಸಲಾದ ಮೂರು ಮತ್ತು ನಾಲ್ಕನೇ ದರ್ಜೆ & ಮೇಲ್ಪಟ್ಟ ಅರ್ಹ ಸಿವಿಲ್ ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಜಾತಿ/ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಪಂಗಡ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆ ವೇಳಾಪಟ್ಟಿ ಮತ್ತು ಇತರೆ ವಿವರಗಳು: 1) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ: 15.02.2024 ಸಂಜೆ 16.00 ಘಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ. **2)** ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ: 16.02.2024 ಸಂಜೆ 16.05 ಘಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ವಿದ್ಯುನ್ಮಾನ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆ ವೇದಿಕೆ ಮೂಲಕ (Through KPPP) https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ದಿಂದ ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದು. ಸೂಚನೆ: ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿರುವವರು ಯಾವುದೇ ಕಾರಣಗಳನ್ನು ನೀಡದೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯನ್ನು ಮುಂದೂಡುವ/ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣವಾಗಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ರದ್ದುಗೊಳಿಸುವ/ಟೆಂಡರ್ ನಿರಾಕರಿಸುವ ಹಕ್ಕನ್ನು ಹೊಂದಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ.

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು

DIPR/DDMYS/KSMCA/1021/2023-24

TAMILNADU MINERALS LIMITED
(An Undertaking of Government of Tamil Nadu)
No.31, Kamarajar Salai, Chepauk, Chennai - 600 005. Phone No.044-28962810, 28511572

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER WITH FORWARD BIDDING

1	Description of work	Sale of dimensional black and colour granite blocks from certain quarries of TAMIN, Tamil Nadu
2	Tender No. & Date Tender ID	1480/EX-1/2023, Dated: 27.01.20224 & 08.02.2024 1. 2024_TNMIN_419695_1 2. 2024_TNMIN_419760_1 3. 2024_TNMIN_419826_1 4. 2024_TNMIN_419841_1 5. 2024_TNMIN_419869_1 6. 2024_TNMIN_419880_1 7. 2024_TNMIN_419908_1 8. 2024_TNMIN_419921_1 9. 2024_TNMIN_419931_1 10. 2024_TNMIN_419940_1 11.2024_TNMIN_419970_1 12. 2024_TNMIN_420126_1
3	Bid submission End Date	08.03.2024 up to 1600 hrs.
4	Technical Bid Opening Date	11.03.2024 at 1600 hrs.
5	Tender form Fee & EMD	Rs.2,000/- (Rupees two thousand only) or equivalent USD 25 (Non-refundable Rs.5,90,000/- (Rupees five lakh ninety thousand only) or equivalent USD.7200

Note: For further details please visit Tamilnadu e-tendering portal: https://tntenders.gov.in
DIPR/812/TENDER/2024 GENERAL MANAGER(FINANCE)

Form No. INC-26
[Pursuant to rule 30 the Companies (Incorporation) Rules, 2014]
Public Notice for change of Registered Office of the Company from one state to another
Before the Regional Director, Ministry of Corporate Affairs
South Eastern Region, Hyderabad
In the matter of the Companies Act, 2013, Section 13(4) of Companies Act, 2013 and Rule 30(5)(a) of the Companies (Incorporation) Rules, 2014
AND
In the matter of **Lilliam Properties Private Limited** (the Company)
(CIN: U70100KA2012PTC065861)
having its registered office at 25/1, Skip House, Museum Road, Bangalore - 560 025 E-mail: **urbaninfra-cs@gmrgroup.in** Phone No: **080-40432230**
... Applicant

Notice is hereby given to the General Public that the company proposes to make application to the Central Government under section 13 of the Companies Act, 2013 seeking confirmation of alteration of the Memorandum of Association of the Company in terms of the special resolution passed at the Extra ordinary general meeting held on Tuesday, February 06,2024, to enable the company to change its Registered office from the 'State of Karnataka within the jurisdiction of Bengaluru' to the 'State of Tamil Nadu within the jurisdiction of Coimbatore"

Any person whose interest is likely to be affected by the proposed change of the registered office of the company may deliver either on the MCA-21 portal **(www.mca.gov.in)** by filing Investor Complaint form or cause to be delivered or send by registered post of his/her objections supported by an affidavit stating the nature of his/her interest and grounds of opposition to the Regional Director, South Eastern Region, the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, 3rd Floor, Corporate Bhavan, Bandlaguda, Nagole, Tattiannaram Village, Hayat Nagar Mandal, Ranga Reddy District, Hyderabad-500068, Telangana within Fourteen days from the date of publication of this notice with a copy to the applicant company at its registered office at the address mentioned below:

Registered Office: 25/1, Skip House, Museum Road, Bangalore-560 025

For Lilliam Properties Private Limited
Sd/-
Arivu Chelvan
Director
DIN: 03391559

Date: 09.02.2024
Place: Bangalore

What is Karnataka government's new uniform fare structure for cabs?

The government notification issued on February 3, 2024, states that cab aggregators are not allowed to charge any extra fees beyond what is officially set, thus banning surge pricing

EXPLAINER

Darshan Devaiah B.P.
BENGALURU

The new fare system for cabs has introduced a simple three-tier structure based on the car's value, eliminating the previous flexible pricing. FILE PHOTO

The story so far

The Karnataka government has introduced a new uniform fare for all cabs in Bengaluru, including those operating using aggregator platforms like Ola and Uber, and traditional city taxis.

The new fare system introduces a simple three-tier structure based on the car's value, eliminating the previous flexible pricing. This new order from the government came following numerous complaints from both passengers and cab drivers regarding the "exorbitant fares" imposed by cab aggregators.

What the new rule says

The government notification issued on February 3, 2024, states that cab aggregators are not allowed to charge any extra fees beyond what is officially set. This means surge pricing is now banned. The notification emphasizes that fares should only be based on the rates set by the government, and any unauthorized charges are strictly not allowed.

Under the revised structure, the base fare for a distance of up to four kilometres starts at ₹100 for vehicles valued up to ₹10 lakh, with an additional charge of ₹24 per kilometre thereafter. For vehicles priced between ₹10 lakh and ₹15 lakh, the initial four-kilometre fare is set at ₹115, with a subsequent per-kilometre rate of ₹28. Vehicles exceeding the ₹15-lakh mark will have a minimum fare of ₹130 for the first four kilometres, with each additional kilometre priced at ₹32.

The order also specifies that waiting is free for the initial five minutes and thereafter will be billed at ₹1 per minute. App-based aggregators will collect a 5% Goods and Services Tax (GST) from passengers, and toll charges may be passed on to riders. Night time fares, applicable from 12 a.m. to 6 a.m., will incur a 10% surcharge.

What prompted the government to form these rules?

According to Karnataka's Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy, the government implemented a uniform fare for all cabs in response to numerous complaints received by the Transport Department. "Both commuters and cab drivers expressed concerns about ride aggregators overcharging, and

Cab drivers and traditional taxi operators have expressed approval for the uniform fare

drivers reported that the aggregators were imposing higher commission fees, he added.

In August, 2023, Reddy has convened two rounds of meetings involving cab and auto unions and one of the important agenda of these discussions was the matter pertaining to cab aggregator applications.

During the meeting, unions representing auto drivers and owners called for a prohibition on aggregators imposing commissions exceeding 5% of the total fare. They also raised concerns about aggregators charging exorbitant fares from commuters while simultaneously imposing high commission fees on cab and auto drivers.

Will cab aggregators adhere to the new fare structure?

Following the announcement of the new fare structure by the Transport Department, the primary concern revolves around its execution. The true repercussions of the revised fares will only become apparent once cab aggregators put the new fare structure into practice.

According to the order, the new fares were supposed to be implemented immediately; however, cab aggregators are yet to implemented it (as on Thursday).

Reddy has warned that aggregators must comply with the order, or they will face consequences. "Aggregators must adhere to the new fare structure, or we will take action. This has been a long-standing demand from drivers and passengers," he said.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, K. Radhakrishna Holla, President of the Karnataka State Travel Operators' Association (KSTOA), said, "It is doubtful how the government order will be implemented as the rate fixing directive has been given not only for Bengaluru city but also for the entire State. The order does not specify the monitoring mechanism for implementing the fare structure, and it lacks details on the nature of action if the rule is not adhered to."

Is this the first time the government has issued cab fare regulations?

No, the transport department has previously set cab fares. In 2018, it marked the first instance of the government establishing fares for aggregators, categorized into four classes based on vehicle prices.

Fare structure was again revised for app-based cabs in 2021 and categorised into four slabs based on the value of vehicles. Non-app-based city taxis in Bengaluru were subject to varying minimum fares depending on the presence of air conditioning and this ride-hailing app seldom adhered to these regulations, persistently implementing surge pricing, alleged both commuters and cab drivers.

In 2021, the fare structure was as follows: for vehicles priced up to ₹5 lakhs, the initial fare was ₹75 for the first four kilometers. For vehicles with a cost ranging from ₹5 lakhs to ₹10 lakhs, the fare was ₹100 for the first four kilometers. For those priced between ₹10 lakhs and ₹16 lakhs, the initial fare was ₹120 for the first four kilometers. Vehicles exceeding ₹16 lakhs incurred a fare of ₹150 for the first four kilometers.

Hemanth Kumar, Additional Commissioner, Transport Department, and Secretary, Karnataka State Transport Authority, said that the new system replaces the previous setup, which included minimum and maximum fares for different categories. Moreover, the new structure removes the non-A.C. category, citing the standardisation of air-conditioned amenities across all vehicles.

Did the new fare rules precede the government's app launch?

The rule of standardiz ed fares for cabs holds significance, given that the Karnataka government is gearing up to introduce its own ride-hailing app soon. Reddy said, "We are currently in the development phase of the app, and it is scheduled for launch in a month or two. This government-run app will adhere to the fare regulations set by the government, with a comparatively lower commission charged from drivers in contrast to existing private aggregator apps."

In response to an increase in complaints from taxi and auto drivers against private ride-hailing platforms, in August 2023, the government initiated the development of its own app. The primary reason behind launching this ride-hailing app is the discontent among cab and auto drivers with the practices of private ride-hailing platforms, particularly concerning what they allege are substantial commissions the companies impose.

Do cab drivers support the new rule?

Cab Drivers and traditional taxi operators have expressed approval for the uniform fare rule, stating that it will be advantageous for both drivers and passengers. Holla said, "Previously, the transport department provided cab aggregators with flexible fare options, and now it has introduced a fixed fare. We appreciate the initiative and hope that proper implementation of the rule will be beneficial for both drivers and passengers."

Tanveer Pasha, president, Ola Uber Drivers' and Owners' Association, welcomed the government bringing in a uniform fare structure. "Under the previous system, there were concerns over both driver's earnings and costs to the passengers," he said, while appealing to the government to ensure driver welfare and price consistency for passengers while enforcing the new fare structure.

What do cab aggregators say?

Ola and Uber, leading players in the market, are yet to respond to queries from *The Hindu* regarding the new directive. This report will be updated if a response is received.

Symposium on challenges in the digital society organised at IIIT-B

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Centre for IT and Public Policy (CITAPP) at the International Institute of Information Technology Bangalore (IIIT-B) organized a symposium on "Emerging Opportunities and Challenges in the Digital Society," on Thursday, February 8.

The event featured an overview of CITAPP's research and outreach activities, a release of the Digital Society survey report authored by itihaasa Research and Digital, and a panel discussion on the opportunities and challenges presented by the current moment.

Kris Gopalakrishnan, Co-founder of Infosys and Founder of itihaasa, Research and Digital said, "The survey explores people's experiences and beliefs, shedding light on various facets of digital technologies."

The comprehensive report, based on a survey conducted in the Bengaluru Urban district, encompasses responses from over 1800 individuals across various socio-economic categories, said a release.

The report was released by Mr. Kris Gopalakrishnan, along with Prof. Debabrata Das, Director, IIIT-B.

Panel discussion

The report launch was followed by a panel discussion featuring Prof. Sudhir Krishnaswamy, Vice Chancellor, National Law School of India University Bangalore, Prof. Rajalaxmi Kamath, Centre for Public Policy, IIM Bangalore, and the authors of the report, Dr. N. Dayasindhu and Mr. Krishnan Narayanan. Moderated by Prof. Balaji Parthasarathy, IIIT-B, the discussion focussed on questions concerning the perception, rhetoric and experience of the digital society, and the idea of an 'inclusive digital society, from economic, political and social vantages.

IIIT-B launched a new one-year full time Post Graduate Diploma programme in Digital Product Design and Management, to start in July 2024.

The programme will include courses that equip the students with necessary skills and knowledge that can help them in contributing to better product designs that serve the underserved market segments well.

Arena brings alive Harper Lee's classic To Kill a Mockingbird

Directed by Tahera, the play explores themes of racial injustice, moral growth, and empathy as Scout and her brother Jem navigate the complexities of their society

Yemen S.
BENGALURU

A scene from To Kill a Mockingbird.

An adaptation of the novel *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee, produced by Bengaluru-based Arena Theatre Productions, is set to showcase its second set of shows at the Prestige Srihari Khoday Centre for Performing Arts, Kanakapura Road on February 10, at 3 p.m and 7 p.m.

Complexities of the society

Directed by Tahera, the play is based on a novel of the same name by Harper Lee, an American novelist who has released only two literary works in her lifetime. The story is set in the racially divided town of Maycomb, Alabama, during the 1930s. It follows the Finch family, young Scout Finch and her father, Atticus Finch, a lawyer tasked with defending a black man, Tom Robinson, accused of raping a white woman.

Premiered at the Chowdiah Memorial Hall, Vyalikaval, the play explores themes of racial injustice, moral growth, and empathy as Scout and her brother Jem navigate the complexities of their society. Through Atticus's unwavering commitment to justice and the children's encounters with their reclusive neighbour, Boo Radley, the story reveals the harsh realities of prejudice and the power of compassion.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Tahera said she has always been fond of courtroom dramas and the play is the output of six months of research and rehearsals, "I knew that it was a big play I was taking up, when I decided to make *To Kill a Mocking Bird*. But it was something that has stayed with me for a long time and something I wanted to do for three years, because I am a fan of courtroom dramas."

Inspired by the 1930s

"This is one of our biggest productions, in terms of sets, props, music and costumes, and all of them have been made from scratch. The set and costumes are inspired by the 1930s and is something not many theatres audience would have witnessed. What is special is despite being a large-scale production, we have actors who are doing theatre for the first time and have done a great job," Tahera added.

The play stars Kenneth Gonsalves in the role of Atticus Finch, and Nishitha Sudershan as his daughter Scout, with Sonali Dutta, Prithvi Selvaraj, Syed Saad, Gautam P.B. and Sai Jayant among the others.

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO FEBRUARY 9, 1974

Minister Wants ESI Scheme Reoriented

Bangalore, February 8: The major industries would have to bear the major burden of ensuring the health of their labour Mr. H. Siddaveerappa, Health Minister, said here to-day. He said the cost involved could be added to the cost of production. The Employees State Insurance scheme, though well-conceived, was not well-implemented and would have to be re-oriented, he added. He was inaugurating the 24th annual conference of the Indian Association of Occupational Health In the absence, due to indisposition, of the Chief Minister, Mr. Devaraj Urs.

Corpn. Panel Elections: Opposition Boycott

Bangalore, February 8: The Opposition in the Bangalore City Corporation boycotted the elections to the six standing committees of the civic body which were held here to-day.

Six Congress members whose names had been proposed for the various standing committees withdrew themselves from the elections. Five of them, Messrs. A. K. Ananthakrishna, H. V. Ramdas, M. M. Gandharasa, J. Lingaiah and Muniswaml withdrew their names stating that the Leader of the House, Mr. M. V. Tiwari had proposed their names without consulting them. Mr. Angamuthu, whose name had been proposed for the Standing Committee for Health withdrew his nomination stating that he did not want to serve on that committee.

Karnataka InFocus

THE HINDU

NUGGETS OF HISTORY

Netravati takes birth at Bangarabalige

River Netravati takes birth in Bangarabalige hill area and not in Hirimariguppe, which is now being projected as the 'Netravati peak' on social media.
If trekking is allowed to the Bangarabalige peak, it will be the final blow to the river which is the main source of drinking water to Mangaluru, say activists.

Forest staff to check plastic pollution

Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre has said that the department will henceforth prevent devotees from throwing empty plastic water bottles, tea cups and plastic carry bags on the Charmadi and Shiradi Ghat stretches on the Western Ghats while walking to the temple town Dharmasthala ahead of Maha Shivaratri. The pilgrim centres draws huge crowds on this day.

Threat to elephant corridors

Green activists in Dakshina Kannada are opposing any move to open Soojigudda, Bangarabalige, and Elneer Falls areas on the Western Ghats for tourists as they are part of the elephant corridor. Wild elephants frequent Mundaje, Charmadi, Mandekolu, Kadaba areas as their corridors elsewhere on the ghats have been disturbed.

Clean Western Ghats drive by activists

Green activists joined by students and some local people picked up plastic, bottles and other waste thrown by tourists and trekkers in forest area under the Western Ghats cleaning drive from 2014 to 2018. They cleaned part of Agumbe Ghat, Yettina Bhuja, Kodekallu, Balegudda, Charmadi, Bisle Ghat, Shiradi Ghat areas during the drive.

No forest fire during lockdown

Western Ghats were free from forest fire for two years during the COVID-19 lockdown. It indicates that it is man-made, argue green activists. But Forest Department officials attribute it to warm climate factors and lack of summer rains.
Forest Department will henceforth hire private helicopters to extinguish the fire if needed.

Pollution of Western Ghats goes on unabated as authorities look the other way

The visitors discarding plastic bags, liquor bottles, and other garbage in the Western Ghat ranges without a second thought are posing a serious threat to the sensitive ecology

Raviprasad Kamila
MANGALURU

Kyathanamakki Gudda or Gali Gudda near the temple town Horanadu in Chikkamagaluru district is among the less explored peaks on the eco-sensitive Western Ghats. Yet, one can see empty plastic water bottles, wrappers of eatables, sachets, cigarette butts and discarded beer bottles on top of this hill station.

Sri Kalasheswara Grama Aranya Samithi, Kalasa, under Karnataka Forest Department in Chikkamagaluru district, collects ₹50 per head as entry fee from the visitors, who can also hire a jeep to the peak from Kyathanamakki or walk. The entry fee slip issued at the forest check post clearly says that pitching tent, lighting camp fire, consumption of liquor and discarding plastic material is prohibited. But the person who issues tickets never checks what a visitor carries with them while entering or returning. If a visitor throws any waste on the peak of the gudda there is none to check. When this reporter visited the peak on February 6, 2024, two groups of people were busy with pre-wedding shoots.

Empty plastic water bottles, plastic covers and wrappers dumped by trekkers and tourists on the peak of Yettina Bhuja or Ettina Bhuja. RAVIPRASAD KAMILA

A file photo of plastic materials collected by green activists from Agumbe Ghat area. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

A file photo of green activists under the auspices of Sahyadri Sanchaya and other bodies collecting plastic waste from the Bisle Ghat area. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

A file photo of green activists collecting plastic and other waste from Gadayikallu area. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

A file photo of plastic and other waste dumped by tourists and collected by green activists from Jamalabad area.

Lax gate keeping

Yettina Bhuja or Ettina Bhuja is a popular destination in the same district on the ghats. The gate keeping here is no different. A forest department staff at the base of the hillock only collects the entry fee and allows anyone to carry eatables, plastic carry bags, water bottles and so on. This reporter who visited the peak on October 28, 2023, could see plastic bottles, and covers thrown by visitors on its peak and stray dogs devouring left-over food.

Asked about allowing everything to the peak, the Forest Department staff on duty replied, "All those who arrive here are educated people. Many have good jobs. There is nothing much to advise them." He said that a group of youth from Bengaluru had picked up from the peak all plastic materials, which made up about four to five jeep loads.

"Our family returned with a bag full of plastic bottles and plastic covers collected from the peak of Yettina Bhuja when we visited it last April," recalled K.A. Nagesh, a doctor from Hassan.

Dinesh Holla, convener, Sahyadri Sanchaya, a body of green activists in Mangaluru, and an avid trekker on the Western Ghats said, "Last year, I saw a tourist holding a beer bottle on the Kudremukh peak. When I questioned, he shot back that he had paid the fee of ₹500 to the Forest Department as entry fee. The attitude is that he is entitled to do anything as he had paid the fee."

The plastic menace has spoilt Devaramane, Kumara Parvatha, Kudremukh, Hirimariguppe, Rushyashringa, Mullayyanagiri, Baba Budangiri which are frequented by trekkers and tourists, he said.

Suhas Hegde, also a trekker and a tourism promoter, of Sirsi, said that almost all popular trekking spots on the Western Ghats have now been spoiled due to excess human activity. Water falls in Magodu, Mattighatta, Unchalli, Kuli Magodu, Sahasralinga in Uttara Kannada are not free from plastic menace and dumping of beer bottles.

Danger to wildlife

Holla, who is also an artist, recalled, "A deer was found dead at Kallathigiri forest area in Chikkamagaluru district during 2012-2013. When forest department conducted a post mortem the veterinary doctors recovered about six k.g. of plastic materials from its stomach." The artist added, "In 2014 when I was leading a group of trekkers from Devaramane to Minchukallu, a sambar deer was found running from a stream with hooves bleeding. Then we noticed that the stream had glass pieces of beer bottles." Many streams on the Western Ghats have now been polluted with beer bottles thrown by tourists and trekkers endangering the lives of wild animals, said Holla. "Wild animals do develop gangrene and die over the period if glass pieces are not removed from their toes. Some of the unnatural death of wild elephants are due to the same," he said adding that the plastic waste from the ghats ultimately join the rivers and other water bodies during monsoon and some end up in joining sea endangering marine life too.

Protect unexplored peaks

The Sahyadri Sanchaya and Hasira Tapassu of Mundaje, Dakshina Kannada, which is another forum of green activists, have submitted memoranda to the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Kudremukh Wildlife Division, Karkala, in August last appealing not to open unexplored peaks of the ghats within the Kudremukh National Park for tourists and trekkers. It is to conserve the biodiversity hotspots from further destruction.

They said that if the department opened Tirimarigubbe, Soojigallu or Soojigudda, Bangarabailge peaks and Elneer Falls to tourists and for trekking, the biodiversity of the ghats would be under greater threat. Presently, the department has opened only the Kudremukh and Hirimariguppe (which is now popularly called Netravati peak) peaks for trekkers. "Tourism should not be promoted at the cost of the Western Ghats," Sachin Bhide and Avinash Bhide, conveners of Hasira Tapassu, said.

Holla said that "business lobby" wants the department to open up unexplored hillocks on the ghats for visitors because they can open homestays in the vicinity to earn revenue. However, so far the destinations mentioned have not been opened. He said that construction of uncontrolled home stays, building of roads, hydro-electric power projects, mining activities, ecroachments for farming have already damaged the Western Ghats to a great extent.

Example of Ranipuram

Hegde said that in Ranipuram in Kerala the forest department never allows trekkers and tourists to carry anything with them from the starting to the end point. It has allowed select local people to sell home-made butter milk and kokum juice to the visitors on the route to quench the thirst. The same can be emulated in Karnataka.

The Forest Department in Karnataka should legalise all existing trekking routes as there are illegal ones now to the hidden water falls. Later it should manage them on a "business model" and not on a "service model" as it is being done now. The "business model" approach will help to maintain the cleanliness of the hillocks, water bodies and preventing them from becoming a dumping place of plastic materials, Mr. Hegde argued. Holla said guides who lead trekkers and tourists should be held accountable and imposed heavy fi0nes along with those directly causing pollution. Penalty should be imposed if the trekkers and tourists do not return with all plastic materials they carried before visiting the destinations.

Forest Minister responds

Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre told press persons in Mangaluru on February 6, 2024, that the Forest Department can not prevent nature lovers from visiting the water falls and other hill stations. The Department will, however, take suitable measures to prevent the pollution at hill stations and water bodies. The department will chalk out a comprehensive plan for the effective management of the existing and unexplored trekking destinations, he promised.

NIA court to pronounce punishment for Riyas today

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

The Special Court for the National Investigation Agency (NIA) will pronounce on Friday the punishment for Riyas Aboobacker, who was found guilty of various offences under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA).

Special Judge Mini S. Das had on Wednesday found Aboobacker, an alleged IS activist, guilty under Section 38 of the Act, which deals with the offence relating to the membership of a terrorist organisation, and Section 39 for support given to a terrorist organisation. He was also found guilty under Section 120 B of the Indian Penal Code for the offence of criminal conspiracy. The charges against him included attempts to recruit youth to the IS, a proscribed organisation, and planning to carry out explosions in Kerala.

The convict maintained that he had not committed the offence when the court sought his views on the punishment. He requested the court to show leniency while deciding on the quantum of punishment considering his poor financial situation. The counsel for the convict canvassed for a less severe punishment for him considering the financial condition of his family.

However, the counsel for the NIA sought maximum punishment as the offence committed by convict was against society.

Naidu meets Shah and Nadda, stirring speculation about a possible alliance

TDP sources say allying with BJP is not a straightforward choice; Naidu is learnt to have shared concerns about a possible blowback if the two parties were to ally; BJP wants TDP to take a decision in next two weeks, before EC notifies elections

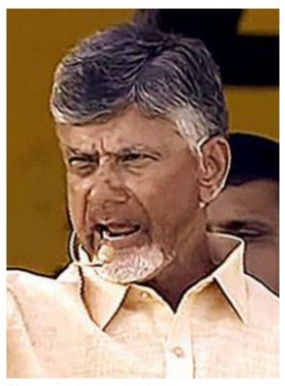
Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

Telugu Desam Party (TDP) president N. Chandrababu Naidu met Union Home Minister Amit Shah and BJP president J.P. Nadda on Wednesday night stirring speculations that the two parties may join hands in Andhra Pradesh for the upcoming elections. However, as per sources in the TDP, it is not an easy choice for them and Mr. Naidu has shared his reservations about the alliance. Lok Sabha and Assembly elections will be held simultaneously in the State.

Mr. Naidu did not speak to the media after the meeting. The BJP wants TDP to take a decision within the next two weeks, before the Election Commission of India notifies the elections. The ruling party wants to draw a contrast between the crumbling Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) and a fortified National Democratic Alliance (NDA).

If Mr. Naidu returns to the BJP-led NDA, he will be the second major regional leader to have done so after Janata Dal (United) president and Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, who snapped ties with the Opposition and joined its fold last month.

"There are both pros and cons to having an alliance with the BJP. We need to figure out if the pros outweigh the cons," a senior TDP leader said. The TDP is conscious of the fact that the BJP could return to power at the Centre and it will be helpful to have an ally in Delhi. It is equally cognisant of the fact that if they reject the BJP's overtures then their political rival YSRCP will be the obvious choice. At the same time, the TDP leadership is worried that the BJP could prove to be a dead weight for them, especially in the Assembly election. "There is sentiment that the retributive action taken against Mr. Naidu by the State government had the BJP's support. Also, in the last 10 years, the BJP has failed to keep the promises made to Andhra Pradesh as part of the Reorganisation Act," the leader added.


Chandrababu Naidu

A section of the TDP also feels that the BJP brings little to the table in Andhra Pradesh, considering their past performance. The BJP's vote share was less than 1% in both the Lok Sabha and Assembly elections in 2019. "We are not against the alliance, but the BJP will have to address our concerns and also together we will have to frame a convincing argument for the electorate," another senior TDP leader explained.

Both had fought the 2014 elections together when Telangana was yet to be formally separated from Andhra Pradesh. The BJP had then fought in three of the 42 seats in the united State and won all three.

Modi thinks States are Municipalities, says Stalin

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi neither liked the existence of States nor the Chief Ministers in the country, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin charged on Thursday. Unlike previous Prime Ministers who respected the States and their people, Mr. Modi thought of States as "Municipalities", he contended.

"He [Mr. Modi] does not like [the existence of] States or that the States have Chief Ministers. In fact, he was Gujarat Chief Minister before becoming the Prime Minister. But, the first thing he did after becoming the Prime Minister was to snatch the rights of the States. He snatched the education rights, language rights and rights in terms of law," Mr. Stalin said virtually addressing the protest led by Kerala Chief Minister against the Centre in Jantar Mantar in New Delhi.

Mr. Stalin further said snatching the rights of States over finances was akin to stopping the oxygen and that the ruling BJP in the Centre was doing it.

> First thing Modi did after becoming PM was to snatch the rights of the States. He snatched the education rights, language rights and rights in terms of law
>
> **M.K. STALIN**
> Tamil Nadu Chief Minister

Mr. Vijayan was staging a protest against the "crippling financial embargo" on Kerala.

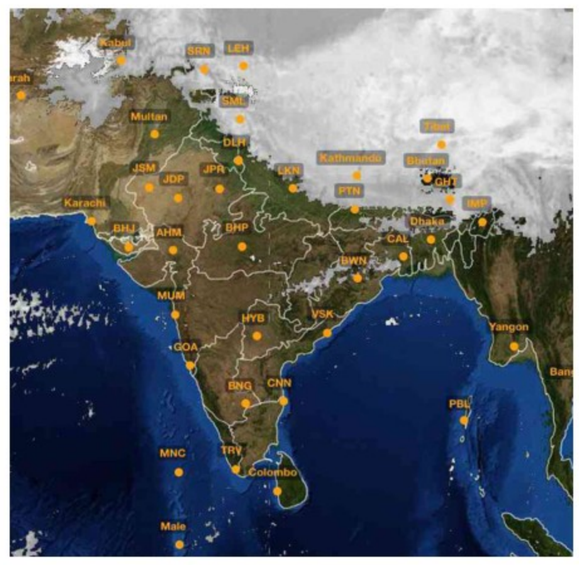
Contending that "all the States have been facing massive crunch in finances since the imposing of the GST regime," Mr. Stalin said the Union government should act to remove the financial crunch. "But, its functions have not been towards it. It is creating obstacles for the States from borrowing loans to implement development measures."

"Let us all in the INDIA bloc, unite and take over the Government of India to put a full stop to the fascist BJP. Let us create an India, which respects all the States equally."

"The BJP Chief Ministers should not think it is happening to States that are ruled by the Opposition parties. I am warning you that this will be the fate of your States tomorrow," Mr. Stalin said.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: AQICN/CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Friday: Light to moderate/isolated to scattered rainfall/snowfall likely over Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Sub-Himalayan West Bengal, coastal Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	25.5	11.3	Kozhikode	—	35.0	24.8
Ahmedabad	—	26.9	18.4	Kurnool	—	38.4	22.4
Aizawl	—	25.5	11.1	Lucknow	—	22.2	8.5
Allahabad	—	21.9	9.8	Madurai	—	35.6	20.6
Bengaluru	—	34.2	18.4	Mangaluru	—	33.4	23.2
Bhopal	—	23.7	11.6	Mumbai	—	33.1	19.2
Bhubaneswar	—	29.2	20.9	Mysuru	—	33.0	17.0
Chandigarh	—	21.6	9.2	New Delhi	—	22.2	8.2
Chennai	—	31.1	22.6	Patna	—	22.6	10.8
Coimbatore	—	35.2	19.8	Port Blair	—	31.5	22.6
Dehradun	—	22.6	5.0	Puducherry	—	30.5	22.2
Gangtok	1	9.3	4.8	Pune	—	33.6	17.5
Goa	—	33.4	22.4	Raipur	—	29.5	17.2
Guwahati	—	23.2	9.4	Ranchi	—	23.0	12.2
Hubballi	—	37.0	22.0	Shillong	—	16.4	3.2
Hyderabad	—	35.0	22.2	Shimla	—	16.2	3.2
Imphal	—	23.3	7.7	Srinagar	—	11.0	-5.2
Jaipur	—	22.2	10.0	Thiruvananthapuram	—	33.8	23.0
Kochi	—	31.2	24.8	Tiruchi	—	33.9	21.6
Kohima	—	15.0	3.9	Vijayawada	—	33.4	21.0
Kolkata	—	25.5	15.9	Visakhapatnam	—	28.9	24.8

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	5	6	8	173	89	
Bengaluru	7	8	11	169	94	
Chennai	1	7	11	152	87	
Delhi	2	18	15	207	179	
Hyderabad	3	13	12	153	105	
Kolkata	7	48	7	154	77	
Lucknow	8	27	17	146	100	
Mumbai	16	23	39	185	486	
Pune	—	—	—	—	—	—
Visakhapatnam	6	8	4	157	89	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Angul, Odisha recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 305 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Maihar, Madhya Pradesh recorded a healthy AQI score of 25

Air Quality Code: Poor | Moderate | Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, Gandhianagrar Division,
2nd Floor BMP Complex, Dhanavantri Road, Bangalore-560009

No.: EE/GNR/TEND/E-PROC/06/2023-24 Dated: 08.02.2024

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)

(Through Government of Karnataka Procurement Portal only)
(Two Cover System & Single Cover System)

Tenders on item rate basis are invited by the undersigned for the work mentioned below from the registered contractors of Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike or equivalent registration with CPWD / KPWD / Railways / MES or any State Government Organizations.

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Estimate Amount (Rs.in Lakhs)	EMD (In Rs.)	Eligible class of contractor
	TWO COVER WORKS (OTHERS)			
1	Providing CC roads Asphalting improvements to Drains and Other Allied Works in HimalayaSlum Lakshmanpuri RK Puram VV GiriColony of Block No. 25.1, 25.2, 26, 28, 21, 20,24, 22.1, 27, 41.1, 25 **Ward No. 123** Gandhinagara Ward	50.00	1,00,000/-	Class-I civil contractor
2	Providing CC roads Asphalting improvements to Drains and Other Allied Works Arundathi nagar Okalipuram of Block No. 6, 50, 51, 52, 53 in **Ward No. 125** Okalipuram Ward	60.00	1,20,000/-	Class-I civil contractor
3	Providing CC roads Asphalting improvements to Drains and Other Allied Works in Binnypete of Block No. 5.2, 59 **Ward No. 126** Binnypet Ward.	20.00	50,000/-	Class-II civil contractor
4	Providing CC roads Asphalting improvements to Drains and Other Allied Works in Keshavanagar Nalabhandavadi Nagamma Nagar of Block No. 3.1, 76, 40.1, 41, 42, 5, 4 **Ward No. 127** Cottonpet Ward	70.00	1,40,000/-	Class-I civil contractor
5	Construction of Multipurpose Buildings in **Ward No. 122** Dattatreya Temple	100.00	2,00,000/-	Class-I civil contractor
6	Improvements to R Gundurao Indoor Stadium and Playground in **Ward No. 123** Gandhinagar	100.00	2,00,000/-	Class-I civil contractor
	TWO COVER WORKS RESERVED FOR SC			
7	Construction of Retaining Wall, Public Toilets and Improvements to drain in **Ward No. 124** Subhashnagar	100.00	1,00,000/-	Class-I civil contractor
8	Construction of Samudhaya Bhavan, GYM Building and GYM Equipments In Ward 126 Binnypete	100.00	1,00,000/-	Class-I civil contractor
	TWO COVER WORKS RESERVED FOR ST			
9	Improvements to Lokamanya Tilak Park in **Ward No. 123** Gandhinagar Ward	100.00	1,00,000/-	Class-I civil contractor

Stipulated Period of Completion: Sl. No. 1,2 & 4: 3 Months, Sl. No. 3: 2 Months and Sl. No. 5 to 9: 12 Months

Date of Events : (1) Downloading standard bid document: 15-02-2024. (2) Pre bid meeting: **27-02-2024** up to **16:00 Hours. (3)** Last date & Time for receipt of tenders: **01-03-2024** up to **16:00 Hours. (4)** Date & Time for Opening of Technical Bid: **03-03-2024** up to **12:30 Hours. (5)** Date & Time for Opening of Financial Bid: (Will be intimated Through Kppp).
Further details can be had from the office of the above during office hours on all working days or visit e-Procurement portal website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Gandhianagrar Division, BBMP

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer,
Electrical Division, Dasarahalli Zone, MEI Layout,
Hesaraghatta Main Road, Bengaluru - 560073.

No: EE/ELE/DZ/TEND/02/2023-24 Date: 08-02-2024

TENDER NOTIFICATION - (SHORT TERM)
(Single Cover System) (Through GOK KPP Portal only)

The Executive Engineer (Electrical Division), Dasarahalli Zone, BBMP invites Tender on item rate basis in accordance with Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 2000, from eligible Contractors registered in BBMP / KPWD / CPWD / Railway / MES / National Highway or any Other equivalent Central / State Government Organizations for the Electrical Works as detailed below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs)	EMD Amount (in Rs.)
	Replacement of Burntout UG Cable, Panels Boards and its Accessories coming under Dasarahalli Zone Park.		
1	Ward No. 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20.	**10.00**	**25,000/-**
2	Ward No. 21, 22, 23, 24, 25.	**10.00**	**25,000/-**
3	Annual Maintenance and Repairs to Electrical Installation at All ARO and AEE Office Building and Zonal Office, Dasarahalli Zone. **(Reserved for SC Category Only)**	**2.00**	**2,500/-**
4	Annual Maintenance and Repairs to DG Sets Wireless Sets and Internal Telephone Exchange at JC Dasarahalli Zonal Office Building.	**5.00**	**12,500/-**
5	Providing and Erection of High Masat in MEI Playground Bagalagunte in Ward No. 18. **(Reserved for SC Category Only)**	**5.00**	**6,250/-**
	Providing Tubular Poles, LED Street Light Fittings and Pathway Lights etc.		
6	Kammagondanahalli Surrounding Area in Ward No. 15.	**10.00**	**25,000/-**
7	Mallasandra Surrounding Area in Ward No. 16.	**10.00**	**25,000/-**
8	Chikkasandra Surrounding Area in Ward No. 17.	**10.00**	**25,000/-**
9	Bagalgunte Surrounding Area in Ward No.18. **(Reserved for ST Category Only)**	**10.00**	**12,500/-**
10	T. Dasarahalli Surrounding Area in Ward No. 19.	**10.00**	**25,000/-**
11	Nelagadaranahalli Surrounding Area in Ward No. 20.	**10.00**	**25,000/-**
12	Chokkasandra Surrounding Area in Ward No. 21.	**10.00**	**25,000/-**
13	Peenya Industrial Area & Surrounding Area in Ward No. 22.	**10.00**	**25,000/-**
14	Rajagopalnagar Surrounding Area in Ward No.23. **(Reserved for SC Category Only)**	**10.00**	**12,500/-**
15	Hegganahalli Surrounding Area in Ward No.24. **(Reserved for ST Category Only)**	**10.00**	**12,500/-**
16	Sunkadakatte Surrounding Area in Ward No. 25.	**10.00**	**25,000/-**

Calendar of Events: 1) The tender documents can be downloaded from the GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 13-02-2024. 2)** Last Date for Submission of Tender is **21-02-2024 upto 16.00 Hours. 3)** Date of Opening of Tenders is **23-02-2024 at 16.00 Hours.** Further details can be had from the above office.

Sd/- Executive Engineer (Electrical Division), Dasarahalli Zone, BBMP.

E-mail: eerwssnpd@rediffmail.com
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, R.W.S.&S. DIVISION, NUAPADA

1st Corrigendum to Bid Identification No. RWS&S_11/2023-24

The following changes are hereby made on **Work serial no.05, name of work "Rural Pipe Water Supply to left out habitation Tikhalipada, Pahariapada & Kamarpada of Kuligaon GP under Khariar Block" of DTCN Section-5 on Bill Of Quantity of Annexure-G item 2(a) read as 100mm dia D.I Pipes(Class-K7) instead of 150mm dia D.I Pipes(Class-K7)** which is uploaded on 30.01.2024 pertaining to Bid Identification No. RWS&S_11 / 2023-24 of the Superintending Engineer, RWS&S Division, Nuapada keeping the other terms & conditions unaltered.

(Er.P.C.Dash)
Superintending Engineer, RWSS Division, Nuapada

O-2480; OIPR-25043/11/0006/2324

Bhubaneswar Development Authority
Akash Shova Building, Sachivalaya Marg, Bhubaneswar, Odisha - 751001. Ph.+91-0674-2392801

INVITATION FOR BIDS (MODIFIED)

Memo No.237/EM/BDA Date: 08.02.2024

Engineer Member, BDA on behalf of Bhubaneswar Development Authority, Bhubaneswar invited item rate bid vide **Bid Identification No.221/EM/BDA dated 06.02.2024** in double cover system in **ONLINE MODE** from eligible bidders as mentioned below:

Sr.	Particulars	Details
1.	Name of Work	**Selection of Consulting Firm for providing "Project Management Consultancy (PMC) services for Development and Implementation of nature-based water Treatment solutions at the lake Zone I and Zone IV of the natural drainage Channel No 10, Bhubaneswar**
2.	Bid Identification No.	221/EM/BDA dated 06.02.2024
3.	Cost of Bid Documents	INR 10,000.00 + 18% GST = INR 11,800.00 (Online Mode)
4.	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	INR 4,00,000.00 (Online Mode)
5.	Availability of Tender	From 08.02.2024 to 02.00 PM of 22.02.2024
6.	Last date and time of submission of Tender	02.00 PM of 22.02.2024
7.	Date and time of opening of Tender	03.00 PM of 22.02.2024
8.	Place of opening of Tender	O/o - Engineer Member, BDA, Bhubaneswar.

Further details can be seen from the website: **https://tendersodisha.gov.in**. Any addendum / Corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website.

Engineer Member, BDA, Bhubaneswar.

CAD-4046; OIPR-13033/11/0633/2324

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer (Project), Mahadevapura Zone,
Old Madras road, K.R. Pura, Bengaluru-560036

No.EE/BTP/BBMP/E-PMT/02/2023-24 Date:08.02.2024

INVITATION FOR TENDERS (IFT)
TWO COVER TENDER (Through GOK https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/Portal only)

Tender for the following works on item rate are invited as Standard Bid Documents **KW-3** by the Executive Engineer (Project), Mahadevapura Zone on behalf of the Commissioner, BBMP from the registered contractors of Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike or equivalent registration with CPWD / KPWD / Railways / MES or any State Government Organizations may apply through e-procurement portal as per schedule of events.
The Tender Document can be downloaded from the GOK e-Procurement Website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on payment of prescribed fee (Non Refundable) as prescribed by E- Procurement Portal in the form of e-Payment through e-Procurement Platform. The Tenderer should accompany a copy of the Registration Certificate valid up to the year of 2022 and shall be submitted through e-Procurement Portal Only.

Sl No	Name of Works	Approximate Value of Works (Rs. In lakhs)	EMD (in Rupees)
1	Providing Emergency relief Task Force team to Mahadevapura Zonal Control Room For The Year 2023-24.Cost of tender form in Rs.(Non-Refundable) inclusive of GST: **As per E-Procurement Portal.** Category : **Others**	**75.00**	**1,50,000/-**

DATE OF EVENTS :
1.Availability of RFP documents date : **09.02.2024** at **4:00 PM**
2.Pre bid meeting will be held on: **12.02.2024** at **3.00 PM** in the office of the Executive Engineer (Project), Mahadevapura Zone, Old Madras Road, K.R. Pura, Bangalore- 560036.
3.Last Date for uploading the Filled Tender Document is **26.02.2024** up to **4:00 PM**
4.Technical Bids will be opened on the website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/#/portal-home in the office of the Executive Engineer (P)-**27.02.2024 at 4.00 PM.**
5.Date of Opening of Financial bid is on : **28.02.2024 @ 11.00 A.M** .(For Two Cover System)

Sd/-
Executive Engineer (Project) Mahadevapura Zone BBMP

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Towards uniformity

The concept of justice is paramount; uniformity is an offshoot of equality

A Uniform Civil Code (UCC) is a desirable and progressive goal for a secular country. However, mere uniformity without making reasonable allowances for diverse cultural and social practices among different social groups may not be ideal. The UCC adopted by the Uttarakhand Assembly aims to consolidate the laws relating to marriage, divorce and succession among all communities. The State has become the first since pre-Independence Goa to adopt a uniform code for civil matters. What is particularly violative of the Constitution is the bizarre portion in this UCC aiming to formalise live-in relationships through registration. This unwanted incursion into citizens' personal life is worsened by the prescription of a three-month prison term for non-registration. It will expose citizens to intrusive inquiries, social hostility and pointless deprivation of liberty. While it contains positive features such as conferring legitimacy on children born of live-in relations and mandating maintenance in the event of desertion, the very idea that people living together should submit themselves to registration and verification is repugnant to individual rights.

When the Constitution makers made the adoption of a UCC one of the directive principles, opinion was divided on whether a UCC will undermine minority rights or promote equal status for women in all religions. B.R. Ambedkar felt the UCC, if enacted, should be voluntary in the initial stages. The previous Law Commission had said a UCC is neither desirable nor necessary, and, instead, suggested that each body of personal law be reformed to eliminate discrimination or regressive practices. However, the present Law Commission has revived the idea and has started gathering views from the public. Much of the Uttarakhand Code seems to have been borrowed from existing laws on marriage and succession, but with significant omissions. For instance, the Code is the only avenue for dissolving a marriage and there is no waiting period to remarry after a divorce; nor is there any need for a woman to marry another person before she can re-marry her former husband. These provisions, which eliminate the concepts of *iddat*, *talaq* and *nikah halala*, are all progressive and further individual rights. Interestingly, it preserves the existing provision allowing custom and usage as an exception to the bar on marriage within prohibited degrees of relationship, but adds a rider that such custom cannot be against public policy or morality. An unfortunate fallout of all this is a polarising discourse taking shape in the run-up to the general election. The concept of justice should not be lost in the search for uniformity, which should be no more than an incidental consequence of equality.

Prosecuting Trump

Whether he wins or loses, his politics will shape the U.S.

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit has ruled that former U.S. President Donald Trump does not enjoy immunity from prosecution for crimes that he might have committed during his term in office, in the context of charges against him relating to undermining the constitutional democracy of the country. The ruling by the court's federal appeals panel implies that Mr. Trump can be tried in the case against him relating to a conspiracy to overturn the results of the 2020 presidential election, in which he faces four counts including conspiring to defraud the U.S. and to obstruct an official proceeding. However, because a month has passed since the time that the court heard arguments on immunity and issued the latest ruling, a high-pressure situation has emerged in terms of scheduling and carrying out the conspiracy trial before the date of this year's election, November 5. The prosecuting team, led by Special Counsel Jack Smith, is concerned that if Mr. Trump appeals the immunity decision and uses other stalling tactics in the conspiracy case, the trial might extend past the election date. In such a scenario, there might be a real risk that should Mr. Trump win the presidency again, he could use his position as a sitting president to either get the case against himself dismissed or potentially issue a self-pardon.

While the Circuit Court has given Mr. Trump until February 12 to appeal its decision in the U.S. Supreme Court, it is unclear whether the Supreme Court justices will take on such a highly charged political case as the present one. Even if they do, it might well be weeks or months before a decision is made. Already, the Supreme Court is set to hear arguments on whether, under the Constitution's 14th Amendment, Mr. Trump's name can be deleted from State ballots – as States such as Colorado have sought to do – under its "insurrection clause". The bottom line is this: Mr. Trump will continue battling legal cases throughout this lopsided election season and will potentially continue doing so after the election too. What remains to be seen is whether his legal battles affect his reputation among voters, positively or negatively. In the former case, the scenario of a convicted President, even one who governs from prison, cannot be ruled out under the U.S. Constitution. If the cases diminish his overall popularity and he falls short of securing the presidency, his political career may be at an end, but Trumpism as a movement reflecting broad voter frustration with the policies and values of traditional Republican and Democratic politics will continue to shape the destiny of the United States.

Charting a path for the population committee

C. Chandramouli

is a former Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India

The announcement in the interim Budget of a "high-powered committee to extensively consider the challenges arising from rapid population growth and demographic changes" is groundbreaking.

Given its multifaceted mandate, as it is to make "recommendations on how to address these challenges in line with the goal of 'Viksit Bharat'", the anticipation is that there will be a formulation of policies and strategies to manage population growth. This will mean addressing issues such as family planning, maternal and child health, education, employment, and socio-economic development. To do so, this population committee must adopt an interdisciplinary approach, drawing on expertise from fields such as demography, public health, economics, sociology, and governance.

Through rigorous research, data analysis, and a monitoring of demographic trends, the committee should identify emerging issues and evaluate the effectiveness of existing interventions. Collaboration with various stakeholders, including government agencies, non-governmental organisations, civil society groups, academia, and the private sector, is essential to fostering partnerships and enabling collective action to carry out population-related policies and programmes at the national and grass-root levels. In addition to policy formulation and implementation, the committee should lay emphasis on public awareness and education campaigns. By empowering individuals and communities with accurate information and resources, it should promote responsible family planning practices and improve health outcomes. The population committee should also facilitate international collaboration and the exchange of best practices in population management.

Past, present and future

India's demographic landscape has undergone significant shifts over the years. With women having fewer children, the working-age population increasing, and the elderly population rising steadily, there has been a decrease in the dependency ratio, leading to economic growth. However, navigating the opportunities and challenges presented by these demographic changes will significantly shape India's future economic and demographic landscape.

According to the latest projections by the United Nations, India's population is expected to reach 1.46 billion by 2030, comprising 17% of the world's projected population. While India experienced phenomenal population growth until the 1970s, growth rates have slowed since then, with fertility levels in steady decline. This decline, which is reflected in the Total Fertility Rate (TFR), has been instrumental in shaping India's demographic trajectory. With the TFR projected to touch 1.73 in 2031-35 from 2.5 in 2009-11 to, India will witness a demographic transition characterised by a decreasing proportion of the child population and an increasing proportion of the working-age population.

> The committee needs to adopt an interdisciplinary approach if it is to tackle issues that affect family planning, maternal and child health, education, employment, and socio-economic development in India

The demographic dividend, resulting from a sustained drop in fertility rates and an increased concentration of the population in the working age group, presents an opportunity for accelerated economic growth per capita. However, realising this potential necessitates investments in health, education, and skill development to harness the demographic dividend effectively. Projections for life expectancy in India also show positive trends, with female and male life expectancies expected to rise. Moreover, the proportion of the working age population is projected to increase, giving India an opportunity to capitalise on its demographic advantage.

To maximise the benefits of a favourable age distribution, India must invest in greater development of its human capital. This includes initiatives to create new jobs, integrate the informal sector with the formal sector, and empower the female labour force to increase their participation rate. Additionally, efforts to address gender disparities, improve access to education and health care, and promote family planning practices are crucial in ensuring inclusive and sustainable development.

Health, education, employment challenges

One of the key challenges in India's demographic landscape is ensuring access to quality health care and education for every segment of the population. Public spending on health has remained around 1% of GDP, underscoring the need for policies that prioritise health promotion and allocate greater finances to health infrastructure. Initiatives to strengthen primary health care, particularly in the rural areas, have yielded results which include improved child and maternal health care and higher life expectancy rates. However, challenges persist, especially regarding nutritional deprivation among children, leading to hunger insecurity and impairing physical and cognitive development. Addressing these challenges requires concerted efforts to ensure access to essential commodities, nutrition programmes targeting vulnerable populations, and interventions to improve water availability and sanitation.

Similarly, investments in education and skill development are crucial in order to realise India's demographic dividend. According to UNICEF, nearly 47% of Indian youth may lack the necessary education and skills for employment by 2030. The disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic have exacerbated these challenges, with over 250 million children forced out of school, causing significant setbacks in learning outcomes. To address these issues, increased investment in nutrition and early childhood education is crucial. It is suggested that pre-primary education is included in the Right to Education Act. Designing play-based flexible curricula, and engaging parents, communities, and stakeholders to generate demand for early childhood education are other measures to improve outcomes. Additionally, efforts to bridge the gap between existing skill development initiatives and industry requirements are essential to reduce unemployment and increase productivity.

Evidence-based decision making

A critical challenge for evidence-based policy is the availability of accurate and timely data. India faces significant challenges regarding the non-availability of current and reliable data on its population, which hampers evidence-based policymaking. It is crucial that the population committee includes improvements in data collection methodologies, technology adoption, capacity building, and collaboration with stakeholders. To address this challenge, India needs to invest in modernising its data infrastructure, which includes establishing robust systems for data collection, management, and analysis. This involves upgrading data collection methods, adopting digital technologies for data processing, and ensuring data security and privacy. Regular and comprehensive national censuses and surveys are crucial for collecting demographic data. India should prioritise the timely and accurate execution of these initiatives, ensuring coverage of all population segments, including marginalised and hard-to-reach populations.

Implementing rigorous validation and quality assurance mechanisms is essential to ensure the reliability and accuracy of population data. Independent audits, data validation exercises, and peer review processes can help identify and rectify data errors and inconsistencies. It would be vital for the committee to explore the feasibility of including such quality assurance methods within the statistical system. Another promising area is the promotion of open data initiatives and transparency in data sharing, which can facilitate access to population data for researchers, policymakers, and the public. Making population data freely available in standardised formats promotes data reuse, transparency, and accountability.

Finally, collaboration with international organisations such as the United Nations Population Division, World Bank, and academic institutions can provide access to global best practices, technical expertise, and funding opportunities for population data collection and analysis.

India's demographic landscape presents both opportunities and challenges for the country's socio-economic development. By adopting a holistic approach to population management, prioritising investments in health, education, employment, and statistical systems; and promoting gender equality and social inclusion, India can realise its demographic potential and achieve inclusive and sustainable development. With strategic planning, effective implementation, and international collaboration, India can navigate its demographic transition to emerge as a global leader in inclusive and sustainable development.

The views expressed are personal

R&D spend — golden intervention or smoke and mirrors

Vasudevan Mukunth

The announcement by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, in the interim Budget, that "A corpus of rupees one lakh crore will be established with fifty-year interest free [loans]" to provide "long-term financing or refinancing with long tenors and low or nil interest rates [to] encourage the private sector to scale up research and innovation significantly in sunrise domains", is worth examining.

The private sector's contribution to India's overall research and development expenditure as a fraction of GDP has been low. In 2020-21, the private sector industry contributed 36.4% of the national gross expenditure on R&D (GERD), with the Centre (43.7%), State governments (6.7%), higher education (8.8%), and public sector industry (4.4%) accounting for the rest. In the same year, the overall amount was ₹1.27 lakh crore, so 36.4% comes to about ₹46,366.66 crore.

Some experts have invoked these figures alongside comparisons to the case in the world's extant science 'superpowers', such as the Germany, South Korea, and the United States, where the private sector contribution as a percentage of the national GERDs is 67%, 79% and 75%, respectively.

There are questions worth asking here about why private sector contribution needs to lead its public sector counterpart and whether the split of the GERD contributions from government, private entities, and higher education in economically developed countries is some sort of benchmark. It is also notable that India's expenditure on R&D has been increasing in absolute terms, from more than ₹1.1 lakh crore in 2009-10 to ₹1.27 lakh crore in 2020-21, but as a fraction of GDP, it has been declining steadily in the same period, from an already sub-par 0.82% to around 0.64%. In the more technologically advanced countries, GERD accounts for at least 1% of GDP. Even Brazil (1.16%) and South Africa (0.83%) have a higher GERD-to-GDP ratio.

> The government needs to spell out, among other things, how it plans to select the beneficiaries of its ₹1 lakh crore corpus for private sector research and innovation

The question of the virtue of hiking the public sector's R&D contribution is important because it is rooted in India's development model and the purpose of technological innovation in it. For example, the post-war U.S. famously adopted Vannevar Bush's "free play of free intellects" model in which fundamental research was expected to spur technological growth.

On the other hand, Japan, South Korea, and some other economies tread a "techno-nationalist" path from the late 20th century, focused "on building interconnectedness among universities, research institutes, companies and governments," as Moumita Koley and Ismael Rafols wrote in "National Research Foundation's chance to bridge India's science-society gap" (*The Hindu*, September 24, 2023).

Innovation's purpose has expanded

Today, the purpose of innovation has expanded from economic growth to include environmental justice and sustainability. Given widening income gaps, declining protections for environmental rights and resources, and increasing privatisation of education, health care, and other public goods, there need be no implicit virtue in private-sector contributions to R&D leading the way, especially in the absence of policy and regulatory guard rails that keep growth equitable. Innovation happens over decades and is risk-laden, both of which the state is designed to steward better.

In the same spirit, public sector R&D expenses need to increase especially at the State level, if only to improve the quality of research facilities at State universities that are in turn tied to the freedom researchers have to work on more locally relevant problems. Expenditure also needs to increase to the extent that, with suitable policies, it relieves the persistent bottleneck of research graduating from the lab bench to the factory floor. Innovation is of little value without this flow, and will be restricted to low-quality advancements.

A catch

All this said, private sector contribution does need to increase considering the focus and incentives India has conferred on technological prowess in the last decade. And the availability of a corpus of ₹1 lakh crore and long-term low-interest loans is a lip-smacking prospect.

But there is a catch: the question of whom the funds are for is very important. Both private sector investment in R&D and its sluggish increase span multiple domains, including telecommunications, health care, finance, transport, and space flight. They will all be making plans for this money. Ms. Sitharaman maintained a focus on "sunrise sectors", and even they number a dozen. By virtue of being 'sunrise', almost all of them are resource-intensive, and we must also ask how much it will cost to keep them climate-friendly.

As such, ₹1 lakh crore – or a little over $2 billion – is likely to be a pittance if innovation in any sunrise domain is to be meaningful beyond surpassing some fraction of the national GERD. For example, according to the Indian BioEconomy Report 2023, prepared by the Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council, helping startups transition from bioeconomy research to biomanufacturing would require an infusion of $2 billion.

With so many demands on the corpus, the government needs to define what it is expected to achieve, whether it will have domain-wise allocations and targets, and time frame; and how the government intends to select beneficiaries and whether the corpus will be replenished. It would be unfair to dismiss it at the outset, but the answers will mark the line between golden intervention and smoke and mirrors.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dilution of identities

It is painful to witness political brands, built painstakingly across several decades, being diluted for short-term political gains. Party names and symbols are treasures synonymous with the founding leadership. When these treasures are handed over to breakaway factions, the voting public becomes confused and begins to reconsider their emotional association with the 'hijacked political party'. The breaking-up of the AIADMK, Shiv Sena and NCP would definitely weaken the voice of the people from the respective States.

I see this dangerous trend of 'regional party hijack' as a harbinger of the decline of federalism as we know it.

Bharath Rangarajan,
Chennai

Divisive line

It is unfortunate that the bogey of a 'North-South' divide is being fomented (Page, 1, "Opposition is creating a 'North-South' divide: PM", February 8). But to blame the Opposition squarely for this is vicious. Those responsible for the 'cause' lamenting the 'effect' is Orwellian 'Newspeak'. One hopes that no one shatters the cherished dream that 'India is one whole and not the sum of its parts'.

Ayyasseri Raveendranath,
Aranmula, Kerala

Should coaching be restricted to those above 16 years?

PARLEY

Vimala Ramachandran

is a former Professor at the National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration

Arjun Mohan

is India CEO of Byju's, one of India's largest players in the coaching and EdTech industry

India's growing private coaching industry has long been plagued by student suicides, fire incidents, complaints of poor infrastructure and teaching, exorbitant fees, and false promises. The spate of student suicides in Kota, Rajasthan, has spurred the Ministry of Education to issue new guidelines, which state that coaching centres cannot enrol students below 16 years of age, make misleading promises, and guarantee rank or good marks. Should coaching be restricted to those above 16 years? Vimala Ramachandran and Arjun Mohan discuss the question and the guidelines in a conversation moderated by **Priscilla Jebaraj.** Edited excerpts:

The guidelines restrict coaching to those above 16 years. What will be the impact of this new rule?

Vimala Ramachandran: It is a good idea because there is [tremendous] pressure on young children. For children to start thinking about doing well in term exams or getting into a good course when [the burden] of their school curriculum is so enormous [is difficult], so this step to restore their childhood is a good step.

Arjun Mohan: I agree that the load on today's children is high. You really don't need to spend 18 hours of your day from Class 4 [on studying] to be successful in life. Typically, students who are interested in cracking the JEE and NEET do a foundation programme from Class 7 onwards. They learn their syllabus in school and then they learn application-level concepts and do workshops on the same, so that they think one notch higher. This is important because a student who wants to crack the JEE or NEET with top scores needs to start thinking at that application level early in life.

Isn't this kind of foundational teaching supposed to happen in school? Does the growing coaching industry signify a failure of our education system?

VR: There is a huge failure. First, what is taught in school is determined by what happens in the final exam. And our exam system is so rote-oriented that schools end up teaching exactly what's needed for the exam. As a result, not all schools and teachers actually help children conceptually understand issues. Second, if a child is going to medical college, the aspiration is not necessarily of the child's; it is the parent's aspiration. So, parents start putting pressure on the child from Class 6 or 7 and that is a disturbing trend. It not only increases the tremendous stress levels of children, but also does not allow them to explore what they really want to do when they are in Class 10 or 11.

Students leave a coaching centre after class in Kota, Rajasthan. R.V. MOORTHY

Is coaching supplanting the school system?

AM: Let's be honest about it. Coaching helps students crack ultra-competitive exams. That is the only objective. These exams have become harder because of more competition. So, coaching has become structured to help students get to that level.

Research shows that there are higher levels of tuition and coaching in States which have higher levels of government school systems.

VR: The school system itself is dysfunctional in the sense that schools and teachers only teach the curriculum. Teachers don't focus on whether the child is actually learning anything. The poorer the area, the more difficult the terrain, the worse the school system. Therefore, we have these coaching centres which cater not only to [those who wish to crack] competitive examinations, but to those who want to crack the 10th or 12th Board exam, or the civil services, or the Railways exam, or the bank exam. A large share of children attend coaching or tuition centres so that they are able to cope with the syllabus in school. This is what I call the shadow education system. The tip of the iceberg is the competitive exam preparation. But if you go deeper, coaching is happening at all levels.

How will these guidelines apply to online coaching?

AM: I would wait for some time for the guidelines to be more structured. The feedback we are getting is that they will evolve.

The existence of tuitions shows that parents

> The education bureaucracy has not been able to supervise existing schools, let alone go and see what is happening in the shadow education system.
> **VIMALA RAMACHANDRAN**

do not find the school system to be effective enough. As an online company, we said, why should the access to good teachers be restricted only to metros? We use technology to get the best teachers to Tier III and smaller towns and give students everywhere access to the best quality education.

VR: The buck stops at the State government level. Education is in the Concurrent List. While the Union government can issue these guidelines, how effective they are going to be depends a great deal on how the State governments implement it. The education bureaucracy has not been able to supervise existing schools, let alone go and see what is happening in the shadow education system. I'm afraid it's just going to increase rent-seeking and corruption at all levels. Guidelines are only as effective as the government system.

AM: The guidelines talk about a competent authority where the coaching centres need to go and register. Is this a local municipality or is it the District Education Authority? These details are yet to come though the guidelines say registration is to be done within three months.

Will the mental health interventions mentioned in the guidelines help reduce the pressure on students?

VR: We need large-scale public education about the adverse impact of putting such pressure on children from an early age. Our media has to play an important role and so does the school system. It's important to have a dialogue with parents and communities. Even political parties should take it up. We need to make people more sensitive to what is required to support a child growing up, instead of putting too much pressure on them. We won't be able to change the system by bringing about guidelines alone, or even just by providing counsellors in schools.

AM: I would put the parent at the centre of the process. Parents should be more connected with their children to realise the kind of pressure they go through. Even today, many parents feel that if the child doesn't get into a top engineering college or medical college, they are doomed, which is not true.

The media, society, and parents do play a role, but don't you think the coaching industry plays some role as well in creating this kind of pressure?

AM: The pressure is because of competition. Why do they pay to send their child to a coaching centre? They want their child to be successful in a particular exam. If you have signed up for a particular objective, there will be an extensive curriculum, workshops, exams, and mock papers. Where do you say, 'This is not something that the child likes; he should probably look at another profession'? These are questions which the coaching centre alone cannot answer. We can keep saying that there should be regulations, there should be no pressure, but finally the parent has also paid a lot of money and is betting on the child to bring into reality their dreams. We also have a commitment towards that parent. We are basically completing the service we got paid for.

The guidelines refer to 'false and misleading advertising' by the coaching industry. When institutes promise a high rank, would you say that they are creating pressure?

AM: We are basically talking about a few elements in the industry doing things like that. Misleading advertising happens in every industry. I don't believe that established large players which are focused on academics do things like that when they publish a rank.

The guidelines stipulate that if a student leaves a course halfway, their fees should be refunded on a pro rata basis.

AM: Education is a service industry. A contract is signed between the customer and the organisation. The refund policy should be part of the contract. Also, does this come under the ambit of the Central or State government? I would wait for clarity on these legal issues.

VR: The guidelines say that the coaching industry will come under the Consumer Protection Act. That is a welcome step. But I don't know how effective the Act is across the country and whether children in rural areas are even aware of the fact that they can go to demand the fees back.

To listen to the full interview
Scan the code or go to the link
www.thehindu.com

NOTEBOOK

The control of thought and speech

At no time in history have dominant groups acquired as much power as they have today, to control both thought and speech

Varghese K. George

U.S. journalist Tucker Carlson, who lost his job at the right-wing platform Fox News after he dialled up criticism of the country's foreign policy in the backdrop of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, is making waves this week, by announcing his plans to interview Russian president Vladimir Putin, which no other U.S. platform would do. Mr. Carlson pointed out that endless interviews of Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelensky on multiple U.S. platforms were merely propaganda, "not journalism."

At the Jaipur Literature Festival recently, the 'Closing Debate' was on whether free speech will survive surveillance technology and privacy invasions. While reflecting on how old surveillance and speech control was, a bit from World War I history came in handy for me. Woodrow Wilson, often celebrated as a progressive president, tried to control information when he decided to take the U.S. to the war. He started a Committee on Public Information, headed by a muckraking journalist, George Creel. It deployed an army of volunteers, called 'four minute men', who would appear at any place with a small gathering of people and deliver a four-minute propaganda speech. Wilson also outlawed criticism of the government under espionage and sedition acts, and the Supreme Court upheld it. At least 1,500 people were arrested; 400 periodicals were disallowed from using the postal services, which was also authorised to intercept mails.

Before free speech, there has to be free thought. Without free thought there is no free speech. Dominant groups try to control both thought and speech in a society. Thought is controlled by propaganda and speech by censorship. Various forms of propaganda and censorship have existed throughout history. But at no time have dominant groups acquired as much power as they have today, to control both thought and speech.

In democracies, there is more thought control than speech control. The more autocratic a society, the higher the proportion of control. When thought control becomes difficult, even democracies resort to speech control. If thought can be totally controlled, there is no reason to control speech. Everyone will amplify the values and thoughts that they share with everyone else. Antonio Gramsci theorised this relationship between the state, society, and institutions including the media, which creates a hegemony of groups and ideas. Coercion becomes less when hegemony is stronger. Digital media has upended this happy information ecosystem, and the U.S., like many other countries, is facing this crisis of hegemony. When argument losses power, power becomes the argument, and makers of alternative views are coerced out.

Mr. Carlson, supported by Elon Musk who has agreed to host Mr. Putin on X, is taking on the U.S. state, no less. This involves pushing back on propaganda and censorship. Make no mistake, what the Russian president would say is his own propaganda, but it will be a counter to the prevailing singular one. Mr. Musk's adventurism has enabled it a platform, circumventing the unstated censorship that exists for it in the U.S.

However, another milestone achieved by Mr. Musk's Neuralink raises a terrifying spectre for free speech. Neuralink has announced the successful development of a human brain extension that allows telepathic communication with a computer. It is being experimented in patients who lost limb mobility but have functioning brains. If technology can transmit thoughts in the brain to machines, it is possible that it can also carry thoughts from machines to the brain. At that point, the massive effort it takes to socialise people will become easier or unrequired.

Philosophers and science fiction creators have imagined such scenarios – for instance, in the Netflix series *Black Mirror*. Invasion of privacy in the future could be no longer about Peeping Toms, but implants that can farm thoughts. Pegasus might sound so stone age, soon. If we do end up in that future, speech will be totally free because thought will be totally controlled. Mr. Musk is apparently betting on both sides – absolute control and absolute free speech.

PICTURE OF THE WEEK

Finally, a fresh blanket of snow

A view of a snow-covered houseboat in the Dal Lake, Srinagar. This week, snowfall ended a long dry spell in Kashmir bringing cheer among residents and tourists. The much-awaited snowfall followed the driest and warmest January in 43 years for most of the stations of Jammu and Kashmir. ANI

FROM THE ARCHIVES The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO FEBRUARY 9, 1974

Strike in Bombay mills ends

Bombay, Feb. 8: Mr. S.A. Dange, Chairman of the Communist Party of India announced at a mass rally here to-day that the 41-day-old textile strike had been called off. He said that the Girni Kamgar Union had accepted the proposal made by the Chief Minister, Mr. V.P. Naik, to end the strike. He also announced the calling off of the proposed bandh on February 11.

Earlier, Mr. Naik announced that the strike had been settled, following an hour-long discussion with Mr. Dange. The Labour Minister, Mr. N.M. Tidke, was also present at the talks.

Under the settlement, each worker will get an additional increment of Rs. 4 with effect from April 1. This is over and above the ones agreed to earlier.

An agreement reached between the Mill Owners' Association and the INTUC-led Rashtriya Mill Mazdoor Sangh, representative union of the textile workers in the city, earlier had been rejected by the CPI-led Girni Kamgar Union and five other unions.

The workers then went on an indefinite strike from December 30 last, demanding a 25 per cent wage increase.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO FEBRUARY 9, 1924

Britain and France

London, Feb. 7: It is understood that Anglo-French relations have not been so cordial for some time as now. M. Poincare and Mr. Macdonald are on the friendliest terms. Though no meeting has yet been arranged between them, it is understood Mr. Macdonald is anxious that the meeting when held shall deal with definite propositions based on the reports of the two experts committees on the subject of reparations, which may be expected shortly. The view of the British Government is that, unless something new and unexpected occurs, the British policy now formulated will be acceptable in Paris.

From Page One

We saved economy from a crisis: govt.

The paper blamed the Manmohan Singh regime not only for being fiscally profligate and opting for "quick fixes" like farm loan waivers but also for failing to deliver on reforms such as Aadhaar and the Goods and Services Tax (GST).

"When the NDA government took over the reins in 2014, the economy was in bad shape, nay, crisis. We faced the hydra-headed challenge of fixing an economy mismanaged for a decade, and restoring its fundamentals to sound health," the paper noted, listing out improvements in various macro-economic and infrastructure indicators such as inflation, forex reserves and highway building pace.

"Our government refrained from bringing out a White Paper on the poor state of affairs then. That would have given a negative narrative and shaken the confidence of all, including investors," the paper said. One of the objectives of bringing out this paper now, the Ministry said, was to "generate a wider, more informed debate on the paramountcy of national interest and fiscal responsibility in matters of governance over political expediency".

"Then, we were among the 'fragile five' economies; now, we are among the 'top five' economies, making the third highest contribution to global growth every year," the paper said, stressing that the economic policy focus has been to undo "the damage of the previous decade".

"Now that we have stabilised the economy and set it on a recovery and growth path, it is necessary to place in the public domain the seemingly insurmountable challenges – left behind as a legacy by the UPA government," the paper stated.

Foreign exchange crunch

Alleging that the UPA created a foreign exchange crunch that "reeked of a re-run of 1991 when India had to approach the IMF for assistance during a Balance of Payments crisis", the paper said by the end of September 2013, forex reserves were just enough to finance little over 6 months of imports, down from 17 months at the end of March 2004. As of January 2024, reserves were sufficient for 10.6 months of imports, it said.

While the paper listed out some of the structural reforms undertaken by what it refers to as "our government", such as the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, liberalisation of foreign direct investment (FDI) norms and GST, it makes no mention of the demonetisation of high-value currency notes in 2016 that was aimed at denting corruption and weeding out black money. However, it does state that "We continue to undertake measures to unearth black money and to discourage recourse to it".

Alleging "pervasive corruption" under UPA's watch that had "shaken people's confidence", the paper shares the "current status" of 15 "high-profile" "scams".

The paper is silent on the current status of the procurement corruption allegations pertaining to Augusta Westland Helicopter and Pilatus Basic Trainer Aircraft.

"Our government, unlike its predecessor, invested in the foundations of the economy along with building a sturdy superstructure. Looking back at the last 10 years, we can say with humility and satisfaction that we have successfully overcome the challenges left behind by the previous government. That said, we are not resting on our laurels. There are miles to go and mountains to scale before we sleep," the paper concluded.

Pinarayi leads protest against Centre

Mr. Vijayan added, "Ours is a democratic protest against the undoing of federal structure and the sheer discrimination against the States irrespective of north-south considerations. However, taking into account the interests of our people and our State, we cannot be quiet."

Kejriwal's demand

Mr. Kejriwal said the situation had become such that the States had to come to Jantar Mantar to protest demanding their rights. "Mr. Vijayan is not here to ask some money for his family. He is here to get the allocations due to Kerala," said Mr. Kejriwal, adding that other than denying resources, the Centre was using Governors and Lieutenant Governors to create impediments to the Opposition-ruled governments.

He referred to the arrests of Opposition leaders and said it was "a tactic" used by the BJP to silence the Opposition."We, the Opposition parties, represent 70 crore people of this country. Are you considering these States as your enemies?" Mr. Kejriwal asked, seeking PM Narendra Modi's explanation on the "attacks on federal rights."

Mr. Mann said the Centre had denied shares of revenues to Punjab too. He said the BJP was "busy communalising" the country and that Punjab needed no lessons from the Sangh Parivar on patriotism. He said the Punjab Governor was even not willing to hold the Assembly session and was trying to deny the democratic rights of the State.

Senior political leaders such as CPI(M) General Secretary Sitaram Yechury, CPI General Secretary D. Raja, National Conference leader Farooq Abdullah, Rajya Sabha member and lawyer Kapil Sibal, Tamil Nadu Minister and DMK leader Palanivel Thiaga Rajan and several Ministers, MPs and MLAs belonging to the ruling Left Democratic Front (LDF) in Kerala too attended the gathering. Tamil Nadu CM M.K. Stalin sent a video message and Mizoram CM Lalduhoma sent a message expressing solidarity to the gathering.

Centre to scrap Free Movement Regime with Myanmar, says Shah

Home Ministry recommends immediate suspension of FMR, which allows people residing close to India-Myanmar border to venture 16 km into each other's territory; Shah says move will protect demographic structure of the northeastern States

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

The Union government has decided to scrap the Free Movement Regime (FMR) along the Myanmar border for the sake of the country's internal security and to maintain the demographics of northeastern States, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Thursday.

The Home Ministry has recommended the immediate suspension of the regime, which allowed tribal people living along the border on both sides to cross with few restrictions.

"It is Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji's resolve to secure our borders. Since the Ministry of External Affairs is currently in the process of scrapping it, MHA has recommended the immediate suspension of the FMR," Mr. Shah posted on X.

Under the FMR, any member of a hill tribe, who is a citizen of either India or Myanmar, and who resides within 16 km of the border on either side, can cross on the production of a border pass, usually valid for a year, and can stay up to two weeks per visit.

Secure zone: Indian soldiers patrol along the banks of the Tiau River, a natural border between India and Myanmar. AFP

India and Myanmar share an unfenced 1,643-km-long border. A 1968 government notification limited the free movement of people up to 40 km on either side of the border, which was further reduced to 16 km in 2004. The FMR's provisions were last revised in 2016.

In its 2011-12 annual report, the Home Ministry observed that the FMR makes the international border extremely porous, and the hilly and inhospitable terrain provides cover to the activities of various Indian Insurgent Groups (IIGs).

The India-Myanmar border passes through the States of Arunachal Pradesh (520 km), Nagaland (215 km), Manipur (398 km), and Mizoram (510 km).

The Union government had initially planned to fence a 10 km stretch along the border at Moreh in Manipur in 2010 and 4.07 km of fencing had been put up till 2013-14 while the Congress-led United Progressive Alliance (UPA) government was in power. The Home Ministry's latest annual report for 2022-23 says that 6.81 km of fencing has been completed, which means that the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government has added less than three km of fencing over a nine-year period. Out of 1,643 km, the demarcation of 1,472 km has been completed.

On February 6, Mr. Shah had announced that a fence would be constructed along the entire 1,643-km border with Myanmar.

"Out of the total border length, a 10-km stretch in Moreh, Manipur, has already been fenced. Furthermore, two pilot projects of fencing through a Hybrid Surveillance System (HSS) are under execution. They will fence a stretch of 1 km each in Arunachal Pradesh and Manipur. Additionally, fence works covering approximately 20 km in Manipur have also been approved, and the work will start soon," he added.

'Several drawbacks'

Officials pointed out that the FMR had several drawbacks. "There is no standard document or border pass recognised by both the countries. Though Assam Rifles, a Central force, is deployed along the Myanmar border, the implementation of FMR through border passes is done by the State government officials. At other international borders, such as those with Bangladesh and Pakistan, the border check posts are manned by Bureau of Immigration officials under the MHA," one official said.

The official added that though the FMR allows each cross-border visit to last only two weeks, there is no mechanism to check when a person entered the country. "There are people who live in Myanmar but work in India during the day," the official added. Another official said that the terrain was such that, in some places, one part of a house falls in Myanmar and the other in India.

The official added that the issue of streamlining the FMR has been discussed with Myanmar on several occasions, but that the neighbouring country showed no urgency on the issue.

Mr. Shah's announcement on the FMR comes soon after his February 3 meeting with Manipur CM N. Biren Singh in Delhi. The CM has often blamed the FMR for the ongoing ethnic violence in the State, though in fact, Manipur had suspended the regime in 2020 itself due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Suspension of FMR is crucial for internal security: Biren

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh on Thursday welcomed the Centre's decision to scrap India's Free Movement Regime (FMR) agreement.

His counterparts in other northeastern States also hailed the announcement by Union Home Minister Amit Shah, which miffed political parties and NGOs in Mizoram and Nagaland.

The agreement was implemented in 2018 to encourage people-to-people contact under the Modi government's Act East policy.

"The decision to scrap FMR is crucial for the internal security and demographic integrity of the northeastern States. The historic decision to fence the border will help curb illegal immigration and strengthen internal security," Mr. Singh said.

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said the border fence would also go a long way in checking the cross-boundary movement of extremists in the northeast.

However, groups such as the Young Mizo Association in Mizoram, the Zo United in Manipur and the Naga Students' Federation in Nagaland opposed the Centre's decision.

On the draw

Govt. rejects Canada's accusation of Indian interference in polls

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

India's relationship with Canada has been in a nosedive since last September

India has termed Ottawa's allegation of Indian interference in the Canadian election process as "baseless". At a press briefing on Thursday, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal flipped the allegation around, claiming that it was Canada that has been meddling in India's internal affairs.

"We have seen media reports of Canadian Commission inquiring into foreign interferences... It is not the Government of India's policy to interfere in the democratic process of other countries. In fact, quite on the reverse, it is Canada which has been interfering in our internal affairs," Mr. Jaiswal said. "We have been raising this issue regularly with them and we continue to call on Canada to take effective measures to address our core concerns," he added.

India's relationship with Canada has been in a nosedive since last September when Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau accused Indian agents of being involved in the murder of a pro-Khalistan figure in the province of British Columbia. Mr. Trudeau had set up an independent commission last year to look into instances of Indian interference in previous Canadian elections.

'UNLF cadres are used as proxy army by Manipur CM'

Abhinay Lakshman
NEW DELHI

The Chief Minister of Manipur is using cadres of the United National Liberation Front (UNLF) as his proxy army and the signing of a peace accord with a faction of the militant outfit in November 2023 has had a serious impact on the ongoing ethnic conflict in the State, a delegation of Kuki-Zomi-Hmar leaders from Manipur said on Thursday, a day after meeting officials of the Union Ministry of Home Affairs.

The leaders also stated their opposition to the removal of the Free Movement Regime (FMR) along the Indo-Myanmar border. But just as the presser was under way, Union Home Minister announced the decision to remove FMR.

'India's Kaladan project in Myanmar in limbo as rebels control key town'

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

One of India's flagship connectivity projects that was aimed at enhancing road and maritime connection with Southeast Asia has faced a definite setback after an important town in Myanmar was captured recently by a rebel group, a senior figure of Myanmar's Opposition has stated.

Workers during the construction of a port in Sittwe in Rakhine State of Myanmar. REUTERS

Speaking to *The Hindu*, the source said that the Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project (KMTTP) has "almost died" after the rebel Arakan Army (AA) captured the Paletwa township near Mizoram border in January.

"There is no way that any connectivity project can take place in Rakhine State right now as the AA has established control in almost all the major towns and supply routes. As a result, the Kaladan project too has almost died as Paletwa is essential for this project and Paletwa is no longer in control of the military junta," said the senior Opposition figure from Myanmar.

KMTTP was aimed at connecting the port of Kolkata with the port of Sittwe in Rakhine or Arakan State which would then be connected to Mizoram by road and the Kaladan river which flows by Paletwa. But the restive province has witnessed serious clashes between the Myanmar military and the rebel AA. The source said the AA has established control over Mrauk-U, Kyauktaw, Minbya, Thandwe, and major roads connecting these towns. AA has also captured Ann township which has Myanmar Army's Western Command headquarters.

$500-million project

Kaladan project, which was estimated to cost around $500 million has been delayed for multiple reasons, including the Rohingya crisis that erupted in 2017. However while the Rohingya crisis is rooted in religious and ethnic differences between the junta in Naypyidaw and Muslim Rohingyas, the conflict between the AA and the Myanmar military junta is not based on religious differences but fuelled by a nationalist aspiration of the Buddhist Arakanese population of the region which has been demanding a confederated or independent status. The population of Rakhine State is divided among the Buddhist Arakanese, Rohingyas and non-Rohingya Muslims, Christians, and other communities.

The fight between the AA and the junta's forces took a crucial turn on January 15 when the rebel forces captured Paletwa. This move has also roused concern of a tripartite conflict involving the junta's forces, the AA, and rebels of the Chin State as Paletwa has been traditionally a Chin-majority township.

The Myanmar source said that the AA is in an advantageous position and it is a matter of time before they establish control over the entire State of Rakhine, an unprecedented situation. "They are now aiming for capturing the Sittwe port, which is one of the oldest ports and airports of Myanmar and they can do that as early as summer of this year," said the source who requested anonymity.

RLJP chief Pashupati Paras meets Nadda

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

BJP president J.P. Nadda on Thursday met Union Minister and Rashtriya Lok Janshakti Party (RLJP) chief Pashupati Kumar Paras, to sort out what has become a potentially problematic seat-sharing arrangement in Bihar.

After the death of Ram Vilas Paswan in 2020, his Lok Janshakti Party (LJP) split acrimoniously, with bitter words being exchanged between the late leader's brother, Mr. Paras, and his son, Chirag Paswan, who now heads the LJP. Mr. Paras and his RLJP remained with the National Democratic Alliance, along with three of the six MPs of the united LJP.

At the NDA's meeting last year, however, Mr. Chirag Paswan re-entered the alliance, raising a question mark on how seat-sharing arrangements would be concluded between the warring factions.

Mr. Chirag Paswan has stressed that his party would like to contest six seats in the 2024 Parliamentary election, as it had in 2019.

APPEAL

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Congress releases 'Black Paper' on 'failures' of Modi government

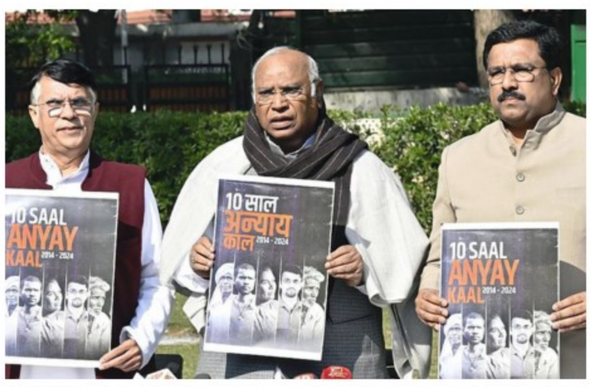
Kharge describes past 10 years as period of injustice, accuses the Prime Minister of hiding his failures; the paper highlights unemployment, inflation, subversion of institutions and the Manipur issue, adds that India has become 'electoral autocracy'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Hours before Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman tabled a White Paper on the state of economy during the United Progressive Alliance years, Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge on Thursday released a "Black Paper" to highlight the alleged failures of the Narendra Modi government.

He described the past 10 years as a "period of injustice" (*anyaykaal*) and discrimination against non-BJP ruled States.

Titled "10 *saal anyay kaal*", the 54-page document focuses on issues like unemployment, inflation, subversion of institutions, farmers' distress, and alleged injustices against women and minorities.



Congress leaders Pawan Khera, Mallikarjun Kharge and Syed Naseer Hussain releasing the 'Black Paper' on Thursday. R.V. MOORTHY

The 'Black Paper' also alleged that India has become "electoral autocracy" and cited the V-Dem Institute, hitting out at the government over the Manipur issue and the border situation with China.

"Whenever Prime Minister Modi presents his views in Parliament, he hides his failures. At the same time, when we speak about the failures of the government, it is not given importance. Therefore, we thought of bringing out a 'Black Paper' and tell the public about the failures of the government," Mr. Kharge said.

Responding to Mr. Modi's charge that the Congress was creating a North-South divide, Mr. Kharge said those who falsely accuse others of promoting division and regionalism, do not even remember their own words.

On North-South divide

"Modi*ji*, when you were the Chief Minister of Gujarat, you used to talk about the tax rights of Gujarat with the UPA government. Then you said that States should get 50% tax. You also said that people of Gujarat pay ₹48,600-crore tax and get only 2.5% back," Mr. Kharge said.

"Non-BJP ruled States such as Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Kerala and Andhra Pradesh are being discriminated against and neglected. They [Centre] don't release funds and then say we have released the funds but it was not spent. They purposely stall work... this is a big conspiracy of the BJP," he added.

Mr. Modi had promised two crore jobs every year and minimum support price to farmers but since they could not be fulfilled, Mr. Kharge claimed, he has made new promises as "Modi guarantees".

"The Congress ensured country's Independence and in 2024, it will take country out of BJP's 'darkness of injustice'," he said.

The Congress accused the BJP of using the Enforcement Directorate (ED) and the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on donors and forcing them to provide funds through the route of electoral bonds. "They are using this money to finish democracy. They made 411 MLAs cross over to their side," he alleged.

Hate speech, Manipur issue raised during Zero Hour

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A White Paper on the Manipur violence, stricter laws against hate speech, and the demand to have a national task force to deal with stray dogs were some of the key issues raised during Zero Hour in the Lok Sabha on Thursday.

Congress chief whip Kodikunnil Suresh urged the government to come out a "White Paper" on the ethnic violence in Manipur and said Christian missionaries and priests were facing threat with churches being vandalised in some States.

Bahujan Samaj Party member Danish Ali said, "There is a lot of hate speech in the country... I request that there should be a strict law against this."

Congress MP Karti Chidambaram raised the stray dog issue and called for a national task force to deal with it.

Taking a stand: DMK MPs T.R. Baalu, Kanimozhi and others staging a protest at the Parliament House complex on Thursday. PTI

DMK MPs, allies stage protest against Centre

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Lok Sabha members belonging to the Dravida Munnetra Kazagham (DMK) on Thursday participated in the House proceedings wearing black clothes to protest against the non-allocation of requisite funds to Tamil Nadu in the interim Budget.

DMK leaders T.R. Baalu and A. Raja raised the issue during Question Hour and Zero Hour. Mr. Baalu said Tamil Nadu did not get any funds despite a meeting between Chief Minister M.K. Stalin, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

Tamil Nadu has been demanding Central assistance to deal with the impact of floods in the State in December. Mr. Baalu claimed that Mr. Shah had assured them that funds would be given by January 27. "It is now February 8 but nothing has been given," he added.

MPs from Tamil Nadu, belonging to the Indian National Developmental, Inclusive Alliance, also staged a demonstration in front of the Mahatma Gandhi statue in the Parliament complex over the "financial neglect" faced by the State.

In farewell speech, Modi praises Manmohan Singh

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh will be remembered every time there is a discussion on Indian democracy.

He lauded his predecessor while bidding adieu to Mr. Singh who, along with 67 other members, is retiring from the Rajya Sabha.

Mr. Modi, noted that in the last few months despite his ill-health, Mr. Singh came on critical occasions to cast his vote, even if it meant coming in a wheelchair to the House.

"He has made significant contributions both as leader of the House and leader of Opposition. There may have been ideological differences or arguments during a debate, but all that is only momentary. His contribution for this country and for this House is long standing," he said.

Word of appreciation: Prime Minister Narendra Modi said Manmohan Singh's contributions to the country are significant. ANI

The farewell speeches were packed with poignant moments and several barbs. Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge recalled his long friendship with Janata Dal(S) leader and former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda.

"Deve Gowda*ji* spent his entire life for the cause of secularism, socialism and farmers. But I do not know what has happened suddenly that at such a ripe age, he has hugged Mr. Modi and is praising him like anything. He is not in the habit of praising anyone.... I do not know what changed his habit," Mr. Kharge said.

While acknowledging Mr. Kharge's honesty and the support he had extended to him during his political career, Mr. Gowda blamed some Congress leaders for the fall of the Congress-JD(S) alliance government in Karnataka, which was led by his son H.D. Kumaraswamy.

FM counters Opposition's claims on tax sharing

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Replying to the debate on the interim Budget in the Rajya Sabha on Thursday, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Thursday countered the allegations of the non-BJP ruled States that there is a bipartisan approach in devolution of revenues.

She said the highlight of the interim Budget was the emphasis on capital expenditure and the efforts to manage fiscal deficit.

She said the allocations to education and health sectors have improved. Responding to the charges by the Opposition that unemployment has increased during the current regime, she said labour participation rate has increased and unemployment rate has decreased in the past two years.

"Women labour participation has risen to 37%," Ms. Sitharaman said. She said the Centre had taken steps to ensure essential items are available at a reasonable price.

Nirmala says the highlight of the interim Budget was the emphasis on capital expenditure

Ms. Sitharaman said devolution recommended by the Finance Commission is 100% followed by the Centre. "Whatever was recommended by the Finance Commission has been given. Payments are happening to the States in time and there is no due held back," she said, countering the allegations that the Centre had a step-motherly attitude towards the non BJP-ruled States.

On Kerala, she said tax devolution under the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) regime between 2004-14 was ₹46,303 crore. "Between 2014-24, it is ₹1,50,140 crore. It is a 224% increase," she said.

Ms. Sitharaman added that grants in aid was ₹25,629.7 crore under the UPA and the NDA government increased it to ₹1,43,117 crore, which is a 458% increase. For reviving the economy after the pandemic, she said special assistance was provided to enhance capital expenditure and additional borrowing was also allowed. "There is no reduction for Kerala," she said.

Tamil Nadu, she said, received ₹ 94,977 crore as tax devolution under the UPA and under the NDA regime, it was ₹2,77,444 crore as of December, 2023. Grants in aid was ₹55,924.42 under the UPA and in the last 10 years it is ₹2,30,893 crore.

The Rajya Sabha returned the Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 2024; the Appropriation Bill, 2024; the Jammu and Kashmir Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 2024; the Jammu and Kashmir Appropriation Bill, 2024; and the Finance Bill, 2024, completing the interim Budget process.

Spectrum auction gets Cabinet nod

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Cabinet on Thursday approved an auction of telecom spectrum for airwaves amounting to a cumulative reserve price of ₹96,317.65 crore.

The spectrum will be in the 800; 900; 1,800; 2,100; 2,300; 2,500; 3,300 megahertz, and 26 gigahertz bands.

The reserve pricing is the minimum telcos will have to pay for acquiring this spectrum, as they will have to bid with the reserve pricing as the minimum price.

Expiring airwaves that belong to "certain companies undergoing insolvency" will also be auctioned, the Centre said. If sold, the spectrum will be valid for 20 years.

Cabinet approves new fisheries scheme

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet on Thursday approved the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Kisan Samridhi Sah-Yojana, a sub scheme under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana, for the micro and small enterprises operating in the fisheries sector.

It is expected to have investment of ₹6,000 crore in the next four years.

The meet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved the extension of Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund till 2026.

Extension of the fund, the Centre said, would intensify development of various infrastructure such as fishing harbours, fish landing centres, ice plants, cold storage, and fish transport facilities.

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CE/DISTRIBUTION PROJECTS invites E-Tenders from reputed and experienced firms for Development of Distribution Infrastructure of Punjab for New DT's and associated HT and LT lines, Shunt Capacitor Banks/Sets for 11kV lines & other works like earthing of First H-Pole & DT's and restructuring of DT's for various packages Under Reforms-Based and Results-Linked, Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS).

For detailed NIT and Tender specifications please refer to https://eproc.punjab.gov.in from 08.02.2024

Note: corrigendum and addendum, if any, will be published online at https://eproc.punjab.gov.in

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Ref No:-184/269-II/SPC/2024 **Dated: 8/02/2024**

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- Short listing of CVs based on criteria described by the searching/selection committee.
- Short listed candidate would be intimated and called for interview through e-mail.

Note: Eligible candidate may apply by 28th February 2024.
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No:RGU/PROC/Print/OMR-56/92/2023-24 **Date: 08.02.2024**

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The Registrar Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences invites tender for Printing and Supply of **OMR Answer Booklet containing 56 pages** to RGUHS. More details on the services are provided in the attached Terms of Reference. **(Tender Number: RGUHSK/2023-24/IND0011/Call-2)**

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Pre bid meeting	14/02/2024 11:00 Hrs
Last date for receipt of Tender	22/02/2024 17:29 Hrs
Date for Sample Submission	22/02/2024 17:30 Hrs
Opening of Technical Bid	26/02/2024 11:00 Hrs
Place of Opening of Tender	Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences, Bengaluru

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232413 006937	Sodium Soap (Imported/Indigenous) required for Deinking Plant. (Qty-250 MT)	29.02.2024
232413 006976	Procurement of Imported Burnt Lime for Production of Wet Precipitated Calcium Carbonate (WPCC)	22.02.2024
232413 006971	Procurement of Cationic Starch (In Jumbo Bags) for Unit - I.	24.02.2024
232413 006968	Procurement of Sulphur Di Oxide for Unit - I and Unit - II.	22.02.2024
232413 006970	Procurement of Sulphamic Acid (Commercial) for Unit - I.	23.02.2024
232413 006969	Procurement of Ortho Phosphoric Acid 85% Purity for Unit - I.	23.02.2024
E-Mail	232413006921 - purchase.civil@tnpl.co.in 232413006937 - purchase.wp@tnpl.co.in 232413006976 - purchase.packing@tnpl.co.in 232413006971 ; 6968 ; 6970 ; 6969 - purchase.rawmatl@tnpl.co.in	

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Tender No.	Material Description	Date of issue of tender document	Tender due date
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232423 004330	CPAM (POWDER) FOR BOARD MACHINE (CCK) OF TNPL - UNIT II	13.02.2024	28.02.2024
232423 004331	SODIUM SULPHATE (IN JUMBO BAGS) FOR SRP OF TNPL - UNIT II	14.02.2024	29.02.2024
232423 004332	NATIVE STARCH (MAIZE BASED) FOR BOARD MACHINE (CCK) OF TNPL - UNIT II	02.05.2024	17.05.2024
232423 004333	CATIONIC STARCH (MAIZE BASED) FOR BOARD MACHINE (CCK) OF TNPL - UNIT II	03.04.2024	18.04.2024
232423 004334	LATEX 1 (TOP COAT – ACRYLIC BINDER) FOR BOARD MACHINE (CCK) OF TNPL - UNIT II	18.03.2024	03.04.2024
232423 004335	LATEX 2 (PRE COAT – SBR BINDER) FOR BOARD MACHINE (CCK) OF TNPL - UNIT II	18.03.2024	03.04.2024
232423 004336	SODIUM BICARBONATE (FOOD GRADE) FOR BOARD MACHINE (CCK) OF TNPL - UNIT II	17.04.2024	02.05.2024
232423 004337	TO RUN DEFOAMER FOR WET END ON PACKAGE COST BASIS FOR BOARD MACHINE OF TNPL - UNIT II	27.02.2024	13.03.2024
232423 004338	BURNT LIME FOR SODA RECOVERY PLANT (SRP) OF TNPL - UNIT II	22.02.2024	08.03.2024
232423 004326	Procurement of Heavy Duty LDPE Shrink Film of various sizes for TNPL Unit - II	29.02.2024	18.03.2024
232423 004327	Procurement of Hot Melt Glue for TNPL Unit - II	15.03.2024	08.04.2024
232423 004344	Procurement of Clay No-1 (Spray Dried) for Board Machine for TNPL Unit - II	20.03.2024	08.04.2024
E-Mail	232423004329 ; 4330 ; 4331 ; 4332 ; 4333 ; 4334 ; 4335 ; 4336 ; 4337 ; 4338 - purchaserm.u2@tnpl.co.in 232423004326 ; 4327 - purchasepacking.u2@tnpl.co.in 232423004344 - purchaseimp.u2@tnpl.co.in		

Corrigendum if any will be issued in TNPL Website & NIC Portal only. Detailed requirements, Quantity, Period, Terms & conditions, Tender fee, EMD, etc., are available in the tender documents which can be downloaded from websites: **www.tnpl.com / https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app**

DIPR/789/Tender/2024 *TNPL - Maker of bagasse based eco-friendly Paper*

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Lenin Center, Governorpet, Vijayawada - 520002 (A.P.)

NIT No. MAU72-PRJ0AICC/1/2023-PPRJ-MAU72/2nd Call **Dated: 08/02/2024**

E Procurement Tender Notice (Second Call)
Tender cum-Reverse Auctioning or Reverse Tendering

Name of Work : "Providing Networking works and furniture for the proposed Amaravati Integrated Command Control Center (AICCC) at Kondamarajupalem, Amaravati, Guntur – **Estimate Amount: Rs. 4,94,50,000/-.**

The bid can be downloaded on AP e-procurement portal from **09.02.2024 to 23.02.2024 up to 14.00 Hrs.** Due date for submission of Bid **23.02.2024 up to 15.00 Hrs,** Technical bid opening **23.02.2024 @16.00Hrs.** For further details please refer to **www.apeprocurement.gov.in https://assccl.ap.gov.in** and **www.crda.ap.gov.in.**

Sd/- MD & CEO
ASSCCL, Vijayawada

TAMIL NADU NEWSPRINT AND PAPERS LIMITED
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Ph: 04324-277001 (10 Lines); Email: purchase.wood@tnpl.co.in

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Tender No.	Description of work	Due date
232423 004342	Supply of Debarked Eucalyptus pulpwood from open market sources of Andhra Pradesh to TNPL Unit-II at Mondipatti	26.02.24

Corrigendum if any will be issued in TNPL Website only. Detailed requirements, Period, Terms & Conditions, Tender Fee, EMD, etc., are available in tender document at our website: **www.tnpl.com**

DIPR/765/TEN/2024

Government of Karnataka
KARNATAKA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES, HUBLI-580 022. Ph:0836-2373348
ಕ್ರ.ಸಂಕಿಮ್ಸ/ಆ/ಪೂ.ವಿ.(1)/ಎಸ್/827/2023-24 ದಿನಾಂಕ : 07-02-2024

ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ಇ-ಪ್ರೋಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ)

ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ ಇವರು ಅರ್ಹ ಟೆಂಡರದಾರರಾದ **ಉತ್ಪಾದಕರು, ಅಧಿಕೃತ ಏಜೆಂಟ್ಸ್ ಮತ್ತು ಅಧೀಕೃತ ವಿತರಕರಿಂದ ಕಿಮ್ಸ್, ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆಯ ಕ್ಯಾಥಲ್ಯಾಬ ವಿಭಾಗಕ್ಕೆ ಸರ್ಜಿಕಲ್ & ಡಿಸ್ಪೋಸೇಬಲ್ಸ್ ಸಾಮಗ್ರಿಗಳನ್ನು** ಪೂರೈಸುವದಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ಕೆ.ಟಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ. ನಿಯಮಗಳನ್ವಯ ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಈ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರೊಸೆಸಿಂಗ್ ಶುಲ್ಕ ಇತ್ಯಾದಿ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕದ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ. ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನ **https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ಮೂಲಕ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು. ಅಥವಾ ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿರುವ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ಕೆಲಸದ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದು. ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಯು ಯಾವುದೇ ಕಾರಣ ನೀಡದೆ ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ತಿರಸ್ಕರಿಸುವ ಅಧಿಕಾರವನ್ನು ಹೊಂದಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ.

ಸಹಿ/- (ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು)
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ, ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ.

INBRIEF

Union Cabinet approves six multi-track rail projects

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs on Thursday approved six Railway projects at an estimated cost of ₹12,343 crore to be fully funded by the government. The sections selected for track doubling are: Ajmer-Chanderiya (178 km) in Rajasthan at a cost of ₹1,813 crore; Jaipur-Sawai Madhopur (131 km) for ₹1,268 crore; Luni-Samdari-Bhildi (271 km) for ₹3,530 crore; and Assam's Agthori-Kamakhya (7 km), which includes a new rail-cum-road bridge pegged at ₹1,650 crore; Lumping-Furkating (140 km) at ₹2,333 crore; and Telengana and Andhra Pradesh's Motumari-Vishnupuram (88 km) for ₹1,746 crore.

ED searches 17 places in cases involving Harak Singh Rawat

The Enforcement Directorate has conducted searches at 17 locations in Uttarakhand, Delhi, and Haryana in two cases allegedly involving former Uttarakhand Forest Minister Harak Singh Rawat and others. The ED had initiated the probe based on a first information report (FIR) registered by the police against Birendra Singh Kandari, a close associate of Mr. Rawat, and others, it said on Thursday. According to the agency, Mr. Kandari and one Narendra Kumar hatched a criminal conspiracy with Mr. Rawat and registered two powers of attorney for a land parcel for which a court had cancelled the sale deed.

Over 30 injured as Haldwani demolition drive turns violent

Over 30 people were injured in violent clashes between police and local people in Haldwani, Uttarakhand on Thursday when a team of officials attempted to demolish an "illegal madrasa". Miscreants gheraoed the police station, threw stones at officials, torched vehicles and public property. Shoot-at-sight orders were issued. A doctor at the Sushila Tiwari Medical College in the district told *The Hindu* that over 20 policemen and 10 civilians were brought to the hospital in critically injured condition. "One person with bullet injury was brought dead," said a hospital staffer. However, the police denied any casualty till the time of filing this report.

LS panel pulls up Centre over Samagra Shiksha accounts

The Lok Sabha pulled up the Ministry of Education for delay in submitting the annual reports and audited accounts in the House of the Samagra Shiksha scheme from Himachal Pradesh from 2013-14 to 2021-22. A report by Girish Chandra, Chairperson of the Lok Sabha Committee on Papers Laid On The Table, cited that the Ministry of Education has defaulted in submitting the documents. The committee noted that the Ministry took more than two years, 13 months, 14 months, and 16 months for the years 2016-17, 2017-18, 2018-19, and 2019-20, respectively, to submit documents after receiving them from the Samagra Shiksha department.

Modi not OBC by birth, he will not allow caste census: Rahul

PM was born in Teli caste in Gujarat, which the BJP govt included in the OBC category in 2000, says Congress leader; he accuses PM of destroying small businesses and helping big industrialists

Satyasundar Barik
BHUBANESWAR

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Thursday accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of lying that he was born in an Other Backward Class (OBC) family.

"Your Prime Minister was not born in an OBC family. He was born in general caste [family]. He was born in Teli caste in Gujarat. The Bharatiya Janata Party government included his caste in the OBC category in 2000. He keeps lying everywhere that he was born in an OBC family," Mr. Gandhi said at a public meeting at Jharsuguda in Odisha as part of the Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra.

"How do I know that he was not born OBC? I don't require a birth certificate to ascertain the fact. He does not embrace any OBC person. He does not hold the hands of farmers and labourers. He only holds hand of Adani*ji*," he said.

'PM is lying'

"In his lifetime, he (Mr. Modi) will not allow the caste census to be conducted because the PM is lying to the country that he was born in an OBC family," Mr. Gandhi said.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi addresses a gathering in Odisha on Thursday during the Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra. ANI

"The caste census can only be undertaken by the Congress party and Rahul Gandhi. When I raised the issue of caste census and social justice, Mr. Modi delivered a speech saying there are only two castes – one rich and another poor. If there are two castes which caste do you (PM) belong to? You cannot be poor. You wear suits that cost in crores. If there are two castes, how come you are an OBC," he said.

"He [Mr. Modi] wears one thing in the morning and it is subsequently changed during noon and evening. His attires keep changing every day. And he lies that he belongs to the OBC community. Mr. Modi is from Modh-Ghanchi caste. He was made PM to fool all backward class communities," he said.

"When it comes to economic justice, your PM is destroying small businesses. He has implemented GST and demonetisation to help Adani*ji*. In the country, including Odisha, youth cannot get employment. Big industrialists are selling products made in China helping youth of China make money. People in India are only spending," Mr. Gandhi said.

'Insulting remarks'

Gujarat BJP leader Purnesh Modi said the remarks were "insulting to OBCs". "It is a lie that the Teli community was included in the OBC category in 2000... They were included in 1994 during the Congress rule... When PM Modi was the CM of Gujarat, he had nothing to do with including the Teli community in OBC," Mr. Modi, said.

NCBC chief condemns Rahul's remarks

NEW DELHI

Hansraj Gangaram Ahir, Chairperson of the National Commission for Backward Classes, on Thursday condemned Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's remarks on the OBC status of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and asked him to apologise to the OBC community of the country.

Low Budget outlay hurting MGNREGS, says House panel

Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

A reduced budget at the outset of the financial year for the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) has a "cascading effect on various important aspects" of the programme and leaves a telling impact on its progress, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Rural Development said in its report tabled on Thursday.

The allocation should instead be based on the expenditure pattern of the previous years, said the committee, headed by DMK MP K. Kanimozhi.

The committee pointed out that the budgetary allocation has been well below the demand made by the Rural Development Ministry each year. While conceding the Ministry's argument that it is a demand-driven programme and the budget is replenished accordingly, the committee said, "The pruning of funds at Budget Estimate (BE) stage itself does have a cascading effect on various important aspects such as timely release of wages, release of material share etc. The Committee feels that for smooth implementation of MGNREGS at ground level, shortage of funds is a big obstacle." In the Union Budget for 2024-25, an allocation of ₹86,000 crore has been made, which is at par with the Revised Estimate for the programme in the 2023-24 financial year. But actual expenditures till February 1 have already reached ₹88,000 crore.

The committee, in its 100-page report, pointed out several other shortcomings on the implementation of the programme, including the necessity to increase wages.

Delay allowance

The committee also flagged the delay in dispensing the wages, which is supposed to be compensated by a delay allowance as prescribed by the Act.

The committee found that in 2022-23, the approved delay allowance amount was ₹93 lakh. However, only ₹59 lakh was paid. While 24 lakh had been approved till November 21 in the current financial year, only ₹2.5 lakh has been paid so far.

'Minor' water pollution offences to be decriminalised

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Lok Sabha on Thursday passed the Water Amendment (Pollution and Prevention) Bill, 2024.

The Bill makes important changes to the Water (Pollution and Prevention) Act, 1974, such as decriminalising certain violations deemed "minor" and replaces for the most part the penalties of imprisonment with fines ranging from ₹10,000 to ₹15 lakh.

The amended version would apply to Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, and the Union Territories.

It also empowers the Centre to frame rules to select the chairpersons of State pollution control boards and frame guidelines that States can follow for the grant, refusal or cancellation of consent by any State Board for establishing industries and new operating processes.

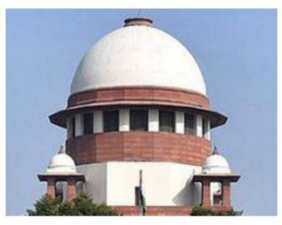
Preferential treatment of most backward is not tinkering with Presidential list: SC

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday said the decision by individual States to provide preferential allotment of reservation benefits to the most backward groups or "the untouchables among the untouchables" will not amount to tinkering with the power of Parliament to include or exclude Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes from the Presidential list.

Articles 341 and 342 empower the President to draw up a list of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, respectively. The inclusion or exclusion of any caste, race, or tribe from the Presidential list is done by Parliament through legislation.

"In the list there are blacksmiths and scavengers... Did they face the same degree of discrimination when they were included in the list? Were the scavengers not the untouchables even among the untouchables? A State may recognise that and decide to provide the class preferential distribution of benefits... How is that tinkering with the list under Article 341? There is no entry or exit from the list," Justice B.R. Gavai, one of the seven judges on the Constitution Bench headed by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud, asked.



The Bench is examining the question whether States can sub-classify particularly backward groups within the Scheduled Caste category and extend them first preference in quota benefits. The Bench dismissed the argument that preferential allotment to certain sub-castes within Scheduled Castes would lead to the "Balkanisation of the list".

Homogenous group

Senior advocate Manoj Swarup, appearing for parties objecting to the sub-classification of backward groups by States, argued that the Scheduled Castes (SC) were a homogenous group. Their different birthmarks and caste-marks were erased the moment the communities found a place in the Presidential list. Preferential treatment to select groups within the SC would exclude others within the same category. Such special treatment to some sub-castes amounted to the practice of inequality by the State, he argued.

"A Scheduled Caste person whose child is studying in the best schools of Delhi and another whose child is studying in a gram panchayat school in a village. The first person's family has got the benefit of reservation for the past 75 years through generations. Will the child in the village be able to compete with this man's child? Should that child in the village live in conditions of perpetual inequality?' Justice Gavai questioned.

Justice Vikram Nath said the idea behind sub-classification by States was to give them equality.

Justice Gavai said it was not that the remaining sub-castes, who had been taking the advantage of reservation, would be deprived of anything merely because first preference was given to a group found to be more backward.

"It should not be like the general compartment of a train, where once you get in, you will not permit others less fortunate to get in," he Justice Gavai observed.

Mr. Swarup further argued that certain States could use the power to sub-classify backward groups for political appeasement.

Launch next phase of Smart Cities Mission: panel

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A parliamentary committee has emphasised the need to launch the next phase of the Centre's flagship Smart Cities Mission with a thrust on Tier-2 cities located within 100 km of State capitals.

The Standing Committee on Housing and Urban Affairs also cautioned that digital infrastructure created under the mission could be misused and hence there was a need to ensure right to privacy and securing of digital platforms from cyber attacks.

The report on "Smart Cities Mission: An Evaluation" was presented in the Lok Sabha on Thursday.

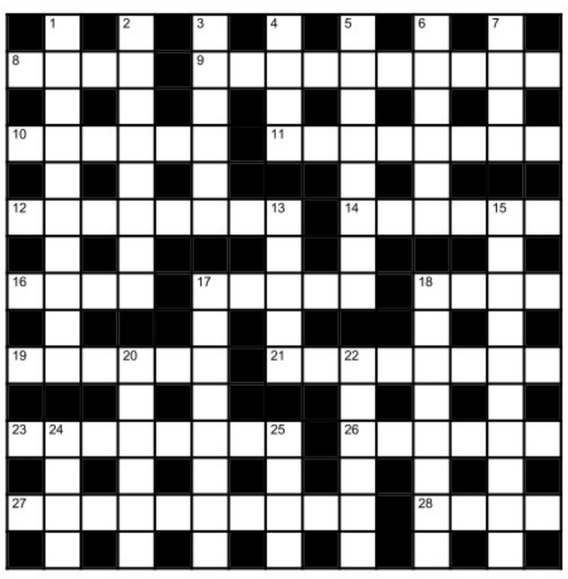
In its report, it said that the experience and expertise gained by Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs) in urban development initiatives must be leveraged for the purpose.

TH CROSSWORD + 14093

(set by Incognito)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

8 Love, kiss and nurse animals (4)
9 Old dog is returned on Sunday and trips (10)
10 Lord Edward looked (6)
11 Comes down and refuses (8)
12 Virginia and John have Indian curry dish (8)
14 Swallow string bean cooked in absence of bran (6)
16 Catcalls from stables converted to houses (4)
17 Throw tar (5)
18/21 Devours horse jerky for starters (4,8)
19 Saint's last word for pollen producer (6)
21 See 18
23 First, army officer's etiquette (8)
26 Potter's leisurely walk (6)
27 Soon fit in around forest after leaving street (6,4)
28 Reduce number by one third? Senseless! (4)

Down

1 Former soldiers carrying ripe squash start to taste and try (10)
2 Nudist runs around mid-afternoon carrying sweetheart and trespasses (8)
3 Father of genetics led men astray (6)
4 Type of test from a police department (4)
5 Slightly salty ash brick is manufactured (8)
6 Top class fish is sick (6)
7 Wager insect has energy (4)
13 Chose operation by Theodore (5)
15 Setter is confused! Los Angeles representative gives roadside illumination? (6,4)
17 Father stole and was terrified (8)
18 Husband finished gin cocktail... is floating in air! (8)
20 Shooting star came across pulverised ore (6)
22 English signal standard (6)
24 Marine feature seen in Murree forest (4)
25 Millionaire gives shelter to animal (4)

SUDOKU

		8				6	3	
				3				2
				8		9	7	
		4	7		2		6	1
	5						9	
3	2		8		9	4		
	7	2		1				
4				9				
	8	9				7		

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

Y	I	S	P	I	S	M		
X	M	E	N	O	W	I	N	G
E	R	O	S	C	S	M	R	N
T	O	S	A	M	O	S	A	A
D	O	P	T	I	N	G	M	L
N	R	E	F	I	E	N	D	I
S	H	A	C	R	O	S	S	V
I	A	N	U	M	O	N	A	R
C	H	S	T	A	T	U	T	E
R	E	A	R	D	Y	N	A	M
O	A	L	B	A	N	I	A	N
S	R	O	G	W	H	I	T	E
S	E	A	G	U	E	S	T	S
A	H	B	C	A	N	O	T	R
U	E	O	T	H	E	R	T	Y
R	E	D	M	W	E	T	S	N

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

1	2	9	7	5	4	6	8	3
4	3	7	6	8	2	9	1	5
6	8	5	1	3	9	4	7	2
9	1	3	5	4	6	8	2	7
2	5	4	8	9	7	1	3	6
7	6	8	3	2	1	5	9	4
8	4	2	9	6	3	7	5	1
5	7	6	2	1	8	3	4	9
3	9	1	4	7	5	2	6	8

FAITH

Lord's role as protector

The celestials appealed to Lord Narayana for help in vanquishing Ravana, who had been tormenting them. The Lord decided to take the Rama avatara, the primary purpose of which was to save the devas. Since saving the devas required the slaying of Ravana, this also happened. But if we look at the reason for the Rama avatara, it was the Lord's intention to save the devas, that led to the avatara, said M.A. Venkatakrishnan in a discourse. In the Bhagavad Gita, the Lord says that His avataras have three purposes – to save the good, to destroy the wicked and to establish dharma. But why does He have to speak of three purposes, when all three seem to mean the same? Wouldn't it be enough to say that He takes avataras to kill the wicked? Then it follows from this that the good are protected and so is dharma. It is to show His concern for the righteous, that He places His role as a saviour, as a protector at the top of the list of reasons for His avataras, and this is true of all His avataras, not just the 10 avataras which are widely known.

Even so, why does He have to come in person to save people? Since He can achieve things through His sankalpa, can He not just wish for the death of an asura, instead of taking an avatara? He can, but He wants to reveal His qualities of saulabhya and sauseelya to His devotees.

MOSCOW

Russia blocks remaining anti-Putin campaigner Nadezhdin from poll

REUTERS

Russia's election commission on Thursday blocked pro-peace politician Boris Nadezhdin from next month's presidential election, ending his surprise bid to oust President Vladimir Putin from the Kremlin. Only three other candidates — all from ceremonial Opposition parties backed by the Kremlin — will take part. AFP

ADDIS ABABA

Ethiopia names intelligence chief Temesgen as new deputy PM

Ethiopian lawmakers on Thursday approved the appointment of intelligence chief Temesgen Tiruneh as deputy to Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, in a shake-up that followed the ouster of Demeke Mekonnen. Mr. Abiy's office described the Cabinet changes as a "step towards strengthening the nation's leadership". AFP

BAGHDAD

U.S. air strike kills pro-Iran commander in Baghdad

AFP

An American air strike in the Iraqi capital on Wednesday killed a senior commander from a pro-Iran armed group who was involved in attacks on Washington's troops in the region, the U.S. military said. Kataeb Hezbollah confirmed that a commander was killed and identified him as Abu Baqr al-Saadi. AFP

GRINDAVIK

Volcano in Iceland erupts for the third time since December

AP

A volcano in southwestern Iceland erupted on Thursday for the third time since December, sending jets of lava into the sky and triggering evacuation of the Blue Lagoon spa, a major tourist attraction. The Meteorological Office said that lava was flowing to the west and there was no immediate threat to Grindavik. AP

Pakistan votes as militant attacks surge and Imran's party cries foul

Tens of thousands of security forces were deployed at polling stations; authorities suspended mobile phone services across the country to prevent disruptions and flash protests; there were multiple attacks on security personnel in various places

Associated Press
ISLAMABAD

Next step: Polling staff counting votes as polls end during country's national elections in Karachi on Thursday. AFP

Pakistanis braved cold winter weather and sporadic violence to vote for a new Parliament on Thursday, a day after twin bombings claimed at least 30 lives in the worst election-related violence ahead of the balloting.

Tens of thousands of security forces were deployed at polling stations and authorities suspended mobile phone services across the country to prevent disruptions and flash protests. Pakistan's Interior Ministry said the decision was made to maintain law and order. It did not say when the suspension would be lifted.

There were a handful of attacks that appeared aimed at disrupting the vote. In the northwestern district of Dera Ismail Khan, gunmen set off a bomb and then opened fire at a police van, killing five officers and wounding two others, local police officials said. The officers were assigned to security duty during the elections.

No one claimed responsibility for the attack but the area is a former stronghold of the Pakistani Taliban who often target police forces.

Attack on troops

Also in the northwest, gunmen fired on troops in the town of Kot Azam, killing a soldier, a police official said. Again, no one immediately claimed responsibility for that attack.

Unidentified assailants threw hand grenades at two polling stations in restive southwestern Baluchistan province, where twin bombings hit separate election offices on Wednesday, killing at least 30 people. The Islamic State group claimed responsibility for both bombings.

The election has also been marred by allegations from the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party of imprisoned former Prime Minister Imran Khan that its candidates were denied a fair chance at campaigning.

Mr. Khan's party called the suspension of the mobile phone services "a severe assault on democracy" and a "cowardly attempt by those in power to stifle dissent, manipulate the election's outcome, and infringe upon the rights of the Pakistani people."

Ukraine Army commander Zaluzhny ousted from post

Agence France-Presse
KYIV

Valery Zaluzhny

Ukraine's top commander Valery Zaluzhny was on Thursday removed from his post, in the biggest shake-up of Kyiv's military leadership since Russia's invasion almost two years ago.

The popular general had led the Ukrainian Army since the start of the war, pushing back a vastly more powerful invading force in the first months of the conflict.

But the failure of a much-vaunted counter-offensive last summer and public disagreement with Ukrainian leader Volodymyr Zelenskyy tarnished his reputation in the President's office.

"Today we had a frank discussion about what needs to change in the Army," Mr. Zelenskyy said in a statement on social media. "I have offered General Zaluzhny to continue to be part of the team of the Ukrainian state. I would be grateful for his consent," Mr. Zelensky wrote.

Those comments came as Ukraine's defence minister ended days of speculation over Mr. Zaluzhny's future by announcing that he was being replaced.

Oleksandr Syrsky, who commanded Ukraine's counter-offensive in the northeastern Kharkiv region, will take Mr. Zaluzhny's place, Mr. Zelenskyy said.

Dubbed the "Iron General" by Ukrainian media, Mr. Zaluzhny came to symbolise the country's resistance against Russia and enjoyed sky high approval ratings among the public.

While he had avoided the political spotlight, he is credited with spearheading some of Ukraine's most successful military campaigns, including the liberation of Kherson city in November 2022. But his public comments proved a source of constant consternation for Mr. Zelenskyy, already struggling to maintain unity over the issue of mobilisation.

Referendum on Irish unity in this decade, says Sinn Fein leadership

Sriram Lakshman
LONDON

Future plans: Michelle O'Neill and Mary Lou McDonald taking part in a press conference, in London on Thursday. GETTY IMAGES

Northern Ireland will conduct a referendum on uniting with the Republic of Ireland in this decade, the leadership of Sinn Fein, the party that heads the government of Northern Ireland, said on Thursday.

"We believe that we will have polls, referendums on the question of unity in this decade," Sinn Fein President Mary Lou McDonald told journalists at a Foreign Press Association briefing in London. Earlier in the day, Ms. McDonald had clarified to Sky News that by "this decade", she meant before 2030.

The conversation around the referendum would need to be "inclusive" and "planned, orderly, peaceful, democratic constitutional", she said, adding that multiple identities could be accommodated within the national framework and this would involve working with the U.K., on the rights of British citizens living in Ireland.

However, Northern Ireland faces other pressing challenges. Its First Minister Michelle O'Neill , who also addressed journalists at the briefing, said "a huge amount of work" needed to be done, identifying areas such as public services, child care and education.

A functioning government based on a power-sharing agreement between the Republican (i.e., pro Irish) Sinn Fein and Unionist DUP returned to Belfast earlier this week after a gap of two years following a DUP walkout. Belfast was being "starved" by the British government, Ms O'Neill had said earlier this week.

Ireland's Taoiseach (Prime Minister), Leo Varadkar had indicated last year that while Ireland was on the way to unification, it was not ready for a referendum because it would be divisive and likely defeated at this stage.

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಸಣ್ಣ ನೀರಾವರಿ ಮತ್ತು ಅಂತರ್ಜಲ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ
ಸಣ್ಣ ನೀರಾವರಿ ಮತ್ತು ಅಂತರ್ಜಲ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಹಳಿಯಾಳ ವಿಭಾಗ (ಉ.ಕ)
ಇ-ಮೇಲ್: midhly@yahoo.co.in ಫೋ.ನಂ: 08284-220113
ನಂ:ಕಾನಿಅ/ಸಣ್ಣವಿಹ/ತಾವಿ/ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್/4702 ಅ.ಪಿ.ಬಂ/2023-24/1525 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 06/02/2024

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್)- ಕೆ.ಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ-2, 3 & 4

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೊಂದಾಯಿಸಿ ನವೀಕರಿಸಿಕೊಂಡಿರುವ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಐಟಂ ದರದಲ್ಲಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಅಧಿನಿಯಮ-2000 ಮತ್ತು ಇತ್ತೀಚಿನ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿಗಳಂತೆ ಪಶ್ಚಿಮ ಘಟ್ಟ ಪ್ರದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿ ಹರಿಯುವ ನದಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಬಾಂದಾರ/ಅಣೆಕಟ್ಟು ಪಿಕಪ್ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಯೋಜನೆಗಾಗಿ ಯಲ್ಲಾಪುರ ತಾಲೂಕಿನಲ್ಲಿನ ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಾಗಿ **KW-2, 3 & 4** (ದ್ವಿ-ಲಕೋಟೆ) ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ "ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನ" ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಹೆಸರು: 4702-00-101-5-01-139 ಅಣೆಕಟ್ಟು ಪಿಕಪ್-ಪ್ರಧಾನ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳು (1) Indent No: 624 (2) Indent No: 625 (3) Indent No: 626 (4) Indent No: 627

ಖಾಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ ಫಾರಂಗಳನ್ನು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ವೆಬಸೈಟ್ ವಿಳಾಸ: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ದಲ್ಲಿ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 09-02-2024** ರ ನಂತರದಿಂದ ಡೌನಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವುದು. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕುರಿತಂತೆ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 15-02-2024** ರೊಳಗಾಗಿ ಅನುಮಾನಗಳಿದ್ದರೆ ಕಚೇರಿ ಅಥವಾ ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂಮೆಂಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಿ ಪರಿಹರಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರಗಳನ್ನು **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 16-02-2024 ರ ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 05.15 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ** ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು. ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ನ್ನು **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 17-02-2024 ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 05.30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ** ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು. ಹಾಗೂ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ನ್ನು ಸಕ್ಷಮ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರದಿಂದ ಅನುಮೋದನೆ ದೊರೆತ ನಂತರ ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ಒಪ್ಪಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವ ಕನಿಷ್ಠ ಅರ್ಹತಾ ಮಾನದಂಡಗಳನ್ನು **ಕೆ.ಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ-2,3&4 ಬಿಡ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್** ರಲ್ಲಿರುವಂತೆ ಪರಿಗಣಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು ಹಾಗೂ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟನಲ್ಲಿರುವ ವಿವರಗಳೇ ಅಂತಿಮ.

ವಿ.ಸೂ: ಸದರಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ ಯಾವುದೇ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿಗಳನ್ನು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತ್ರ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/- (ಅವಿನಾಶ ಆರ್. ಆಲೂರು)
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು
ಸಣ್ಣ ನೀರಾವರಿ ಮತ್ತು ಅಂತರ್ಜಲ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಹಳಿಯಾಳ ವಿಭಾಗ (ಉ.ಕ)

DIPR/ADK/KSMCA/643/23-24 Dt.07.02.2024

Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike
Office of the Executive Engineer
Road infrastructure- Traffic Engineering Cell,
N.R. Square, Bengaluru-560002

No: EE/RI-TEC/TEND/12/2023-2024 Dated: 08.02.2024

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)

(Short Term Tender Notification)
(Through GoK KPP Portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in only)

The Executive Engineer Road Infrastructure-TEC Division invites tenders on behalf of the Chief Commissioner, BBMP, Bengaluru from eligible Tenderers for the works detailed in the table below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1	Lane Disciplinary Measures and Road Safety Measures for reducing Traffic Congestion at critical locations/ junctions and to reduce the emissions **Appx. Amount put to tender (Rs in Lakhs) :** 756.00 **EMD (Rs in Lakhs) :** 11.50 lakhs (Rs one lakh through e-payment & remaining as specified in bid document)

Calendar of Events : 1) Availability of Tender Document in KPPP portal form : 09.02.2024 onwards. 2) Last date for submission of pre-bid queries : 16.02.2024 up to15.30 hrs. 3) Pre-bid Meeting : 16.02.2024 at 16.30 hrs. 4) Last date for submission of Tenders : 22.02.2024 up to 16.00 hrs. 5) Date of opening of Technical Bid : 23.02.2024 at 16.30 hrs. 6) Date of opening of Financial Bid : Will be intimated to Tenderers.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, RI-Traffic Engineering Cell

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Department of Minor Irrigation and Ground Water Development
Office of the Executive Engineer
M.I. & GWD Division, Mysore

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION NO : 04 /2023-24
Dated : 05-02-2024

On behalf of the Governer of Karnataka, the Executive Engineer, M.I. & GWD Division, Mysore invites itemwise tenders from registered and eligible contractors under "e-Procurement" Portal as per the terms and conditions prescribed in standard KW-1, 2, 3 & 4 tender documents for 38 (Thirty eight) works, Minimum amount put ot tender Rs 3.36 lakhs , Maximum amount put to tender Rs 200.00 Lakhs and EMD amount Minimum Rs 0.085 lakhs and Maximum amount Rs 2.00 lakhs. The other tender details are given below. Any information regarding this tender may be obtained from this office during office hours up to: Date: 07.02.2024 – 17.00 PM. Last date to upload the tenders with the prescribed E.M.D and requisite documents through website "www.eproc.karnataka.govt.in": From Date: 08.02.2024 TO 15.02.2024 – 17-00 PM. Technical bid will be opened on: Date: 17.02.2024 – 11.00 AM. Financial bid will be opened on: Date: 20.02.2024- – 11.00 AM

Note: All the rights are reserved for postponement or cancellation of all bids or any individual bids of this tender notification without assigning any reasons by the under signed. The terms and conditions for each work is published in the "e - Procurement" Tender Portal. Any corrigendum pertains to above tender will be published in e-Procurement Portal only.

DIPR/DDMYS/KSMCA/1028/2023-24 **Sd/- Executive Engineer**

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕುಟುಂಬ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ
ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಆಕುಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಎನ್.ಪಿ.ಸಿ.ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ ಆವರಣ, ನಜರ್‌ಬಾದ್, ಮೈಸೂರು - 10.
(E-mail: khsdrp.divmys@gmail.com)
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಆಕುಕ/ಇಂ.ವಿ./ಕಾ.ಅ/ಮೈ/ಸಇ-3&4/ಟೆಂಡರ್-29/2023-24
ದಿನಾಂಕ: 05.02.2024

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು, ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕುಟುಂಬ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಮೈಸೂರು ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಗೆ ಒಳಪಡುವ ಮೈಸೂರು/ಚಾಮರಾಜನಗರ/ಮಂಡ್ಯ/ಕೊಡಗು/ಹಾಸನ/ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರು/ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ಕನ್ನಡ ಹಾಗೂ ಉಡುಪಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿನ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು ಮಟ್ಟದ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ/ ಸಮುದಾಯ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಹಾಗೂ ಪ್ರಾಥಮಿಕ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಕೇಂದ್ರಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಮೂಲಭೂತ ಸೌಕರ್ಯ, ನವೀಕರಣ ಹಾಗೂ ದುರಸ್ಥಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳಲು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೊಂದಾಯಿಸಲಾದ ಮೂರು ಮತ್ತು ನಾಲ್ಕನೇ ದರ್ಜೆ & ಮೇಲ್ಪಟ್ಟ ಅರ್ಹ ಸಿವಿಲ್ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆ ವೇಳಾಪಟ್ಟಿ ಮತ್ತು ಇತರೆ ವಿವರಗಳು: 1) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ: 19.02.2024 ಸಂಜೆ 16.00 ಘಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ **2)** ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ: 20.02.2024 ಸಂಜೆ 16.05 ಘಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ವಿದ್ಯುನ್ಮಾನ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆ ವೇದಿಕೆ ಮೂಲಕ (Through KPPP) https://kppp. karnataka.gov.in ದಿಂದ ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದು. ಸೂಚನೆ: ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿರುವವರು ಯಾವುದೇ ಕಾರಣಗಳನ್ನು ನೀಡದೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯನ್ನು ಮುಂದೂಡುವ/ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣವಾಗಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ರದ್ದುಗೊಳಿಸುವ / ಟೆಂಡರ್ ನಿರಾಕರಿಸುವ ಹಕ್ಕನ್ನು ಹೊಂದಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ.

ಸಹಿ/- ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು
DIPR/DDMYS/KSMCA/1012/2023-24

Russia storms Ukraine's Avdiivka

Agence France-Presse
KYIV

Large numbers of Russian forces are storming the frontline Ukrainian town of Avdiivka, its Ukrainian mayor said on Thursday, escalating a months-long effort to capture the industrial hub.

Moscow launched a costly bid in October to seize the town, which has been caught up in fighting since 2014, when it briefly fell to Moscow-backed separatists.

The capture of Avdiivka would provide a much needed victory for Russia, in the run-up to its much-awaited presidential election in March.

Bolsonaro targeted as Brazil police probe 'coup attempt'

Agence France-Presse
BRASÍLIA

Bolsonaro, who was ordered to surrender his passport, called it a case of 'relentless persecution'

Brazilian police launched dozens of raids on Thursday targeting ex-President Jair Bolsonaro, who was ordered to surrender his passport, and his inner circle over allegations of orchestrating an invasion of the seat of power last year.

Federal police said they were carrying out 33 search and seizure operations and executing four arrest warrants in an investigation of a "criminal organisation involved in the attempted coup" – a reference to Mr. Bolsonaro supporters' invasion of the presidential palace, Congress and Supreme Court on January 8, 2023.

The raids were authorised by Supreme Court Justice Alexandre de Moraes, who also ordered that multiple suspects be suspended from public duties and surrender their passports within 24 hours.

That included Mr. Bolsonaro, whose lawyer and adviser Fabio Wajngarten confirmed in a statement on X, that the far-right ex-Army captain would comply with the order.

Mr. Bolsonaro called himself the victim of "relentless persecution." The former President, who was in the United States at the time of the riots, has repeatedly denied responsibility.

Three people have been arrested so far in the operation, according to Brazilian media reports – two Army officers and a former international affairs adviser to Bolsonaro, Filipe Martins.

The riots came a week after President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva's inauguration following a narrow election win in October 2022 over Mr. Bolsonaro, who served as President from 2019 to 2022.

INBRIEF

Action against Paytm Bank, not app: RBI Dy. Governor

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Deputy Governor J. Swaminathan on Thursday clarified that the Paytm app was not impacted by the regulatory directive which was applicable only to Paytm Payments Bank Ltd. Replying to a query, he said that directives did not impact the functionality or operations of the Paytm app. "Just to clarify, the action is against Paytm Payments Bank, not against the Paytm app. The app is not impacted by our action," Mr. Swaminathan said.

Rane Holdings consolidated Q3 profit declines to ₹48 cr.

Rane Holdings Ltd. reported consolidated Q3 net profit of ₹48 crore against a profit of ₹51 crore in the year-earlier period. Total revenue decreased by 7% to ₹841 crore, the company said. Revenue from Indian original equipment customers grew by 12% supported by strong growth across passenger and commercial vehicles segments. Revenue from international customers declined 10% due to divestment of Light Metal Castings Inc. USA (LMCA) business.

Centre tightens wheat stock limits to check price rise

The Union government on Thursday tightened wheat stock holding norms for wholesalers, big chain retailers and processors to curb hoarding and check price rise. According to the food ministry, traders and wholesalers are now allowed to maintain wheat stock of up to 500 tonnes instead of 1,000 tonnes, while big chain retailers can hold 5 tonnes in each outlet and totally 500 tonnes at all their depots put together instead of 1,000 tonnes. PTI

MPC holds rates; sees FY25 inflation easing to 4.5%, growth at 7%

MPC holds policy repo rate at 6.5%, to stay focused on withdrawal of accommodation to ensure inflation progressively aligns to 4% target

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

The Monetary Policy Committee on Thursday voted 5-1 to keep interest rates unchanged as it vowed to stay focussed on achieving 4% inflation on a durable basis. The MPC also projected inflation to moderate to 4.5% in FY25, from 5.4% for this fiscal, and forecast real GDP growth for the 12 months from April 1 at 7%.

"CPI inflation is moderating with intermittent interruptions and spikes," Reserve Bank of India Governor Shaktikanta Das said at a post-policy press conference. "We have to remain vigilant about the incoming data and outlook. Our endeavour is to achieve 4% inflation on a durable basis," he added.

'Normal monsoon key'

In making its inflation forecast for 2024-25, the MPC assumed "a normal monsoon". For the four quarters, inflation was projected at 5% in Q1, 4% in Q2, 4.6% in Q3 and Q4 at 4.7%, with the risks "evenly balanced".

"On the inflation front, large and repetitive food price shocks are interrupting the pace of disinflation that is led by the moderation of core inflation," Mr. Das said. "Geopolitical events and their impact on supply chains, and volatility in international financial markets and commodity prices are key sources of upside risks to inflation. The cumulative effect of policy repo rate increases is still working its way through the economy."

Stating that domestic economic activity was strengthening, Mr. Das said, "As per the first advance estimates (FAE) released by the National Statistical Office, real gross domestic product (GDP) is expected to grow by 7.3%, year-on-year in 2023-24, underpinned by strong investment activity.

"Looking ahead, recovery in rabi sowing, sustained profitability in manufacturing and underlying resilience of services should support economic activity in 2024-25," he added. Real GDP growth for the next fiscal year was projected at 7.2% in Q1, 6.8% in Q2, 7% in Q3 and 6.9% in Q4.

The MPC had opted to keep the policy repo rate unchanged at 6.5% and remain focused on withdrawal of accommodation to ensure that inflation progressively aligns to the target, while supporting growth, he said.

"Systemic, sectoral and institution specific signs of stress are being proactively monitored and acted upon wherever necessary," he said, adding the exchange rate of the Indian rupee has remained stable.

Mr. Das also said the current account deficit (CAD) for FY24 and FY25 would be eminently manageable in the wake of Q2 CAD easing to 1% of GDP, from 3.8% a year-earlier.

The net balance under services and remittances in FY24 would remain in large surplus, partly offsetting the trade deficit. The external sector remained resilient, he added.

Price stability in focus

RBI's MPC decides by a 5-1 majority to keep benchmark interest rates unchanged as it vows to ensure durable disinflation

- Large and repetitive food price shocks are interrupting the pace of disinflation, says Governor Das
- **MPC assumes a normal monsoon while making its 4.5% retail inflation projection for 2024-25**
- External sector of economy remains resilient, CAD to be eminently manageable, says Das

RBI urges banks to ensure transparency on retail, MSME loans

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has asked lenders to extend the Key Fact Statement (KFS) facility containing essential information such as the all-inclusive annual percentage rate and the recovery and grievance redressal mechanism to retail and MSME borrowers.

At present, the loans and advances availed by borrowers, apart from including the rate of interest, also include other fees and charges such as processing fees and documentation charges.

Shaktikanta Das

"The requirement of KFS is now being extended to cover all retail and MSME loans. This measure will lead to enhanced transparency in lending and enable customers in making informed decisions," RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said on Thursday.

LIC Q3 profit climbs 49% to ₹9,444 crore

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

State-owned Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) on Thursday reported standalone net profit for the third quarter ended December rose more than 49% year-on-year to ₹9,444.41 crore on the back of higher net premium income as well as income from investments.

Net premium income increased almost 5% to ₹1,17,016.92 crore, while income from investments at ₹95,266.88 crore was 12% higher.

The insurer has declared an interim dividend of ₹4 per equity share. Shares of LIC closed 5.86% higher at ₹1,106.25 on the BSE on Thursday.

The increase in consolidated net profit for the quarter was also a little over 49% at ₹9,468.98 crore.

For the nine months ended December, standalone net profit stood at ₹26,913 crore. The value of new business increased by 8.4% to ₹5,938 crore, while AUM increased by 11.98% to ₹49.66 lakh crore.

There was improvement in 13th month persistency both on premium and policy basis. Solvency ratio increased to 1.93, the life insurer said in a release.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	THURSDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	71,428	-1.00
US Dollar	82.96	0.00
Gold	63,300	-0.11
Brent oil	81.13	2.89

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	3168.60	-61.25
Adani Ports	1245.20	-10.45
Apollo Hosp	6231.00	53.05
Asian Paints	2929.60	-51.55
Axis Bank	1035.90	-33.20
Bajaj Auto	7757.25	55.35
Bajaj Finserv	1570.55	-25.65
Bajaj Finance	6575.65	-133.55
Bharti Airtel	1142.15	7.85
BPCL	620.50	18.45
Britannia Ind	4875.55	-202.70
Cipla	1420.20	-18.55
Coal India	459.20	6.55
Divis Lab	3684.40	-47.40
Dr Reddys Lab	6160.05	-19.70
Eicher Motors	3807.30	-120.35
Grasim Ind	2057.30	-54.20
HCL Tech	1633.80	18.45
HDFC Bank	1403.05	-26.90
HDFC Life	591.70	-13.45
Hero MotoCorp	4807.90	14.55
Hindalco	601.30	9.05
Hind Unilever	2417.05	-8.40
ICICI Bank	989.30	-32.85
IndusInd Bank	1477.30	-38.05
Infosys	1692.10	-1.65
ITC	414.55	-17.25
JSW Steel	822.10	-14.50
Kotak Bank	1729.70	-62.90
L&T	3335.50	-59.20
LTIMindtree Ltd.	5420.80	-27.10
M&M	1685.90	-35.10
Maruti Suzuki	10743.90	-191.80
NestleIndia	2423.05	-76.55
NTPC	330.90	0.20
ONGC	273.15	1.25
PowerGrid Corp	276.20	8.25
Reliance Ind	2900.25	15.95
SBI Life	1459.05	-10.40
State Bank	699.55	24.30
Sun Pharma	1499.60	3.40
TataConsumerProduct	1137.90	-28.30
Tata Motors	924.30	-9.50
Tata Steel	143.65	-0.75
TCS	4134.10	50.70
Tech Mahindra	1309.25	-8.75
Titan	3549.10	-27.40
UltraTech Cement	9997.65	-228.85
UPL	464.85	-12.95
Wipro	488.85	-6.35

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on February 08

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	82.76	83.08
Euro	89.19	89.54
British Pound	104.51	104.92
Japanese Yen (100)	55.62	55.83
Chinese Yuan	11.50	11.55
Swiss Franc	94.80	95.18
Singapore Dollar	61.50	61.75
Canadian Dollar	61.46	61.71
Malaysian Ringitt	17.33	17.42
Australian Dollar	53.87	54.09

Source:Indian Bank

Apollo Hospitals Q3 net jumps 57% to ₹254 crore

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Apollo Hospitals Enterprise Ltd. consolidated Q3 net profit over the year earlier period grew 57% to ₹254 crore.

Revenue from operations grew 14% to ₹4,851 crore, of which the healthcare segment accounted for ₹2,464 crore, Apollo Health and Lifestyle Ltd. (AHLL) ₹338 crore and, Apollo Health Co ₹2,049 crore, marking an increase of 12%, 8% and 17%, respectively, the hospital major said in a statement.

The board declared an interim dividend of ₹6 share and it will be paid by March 6.

Airbus contracts Dynamatic to make doors for A220 aircraft

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

French aerospace manufacturer Airbus on Thursday said it had agreed on a contract for the manufacture and assembly of its A220 aircraft doors with Bengaluru-based Dynamatic Technologies in what it called "one of the largest aerospace export contracts to India."

Dynamatic will manufacture and assemble the cargo, passenger and service doors along with the over-wing emergency exit doors for the A220 family aircraft, which total to eight doors per aircraft.

The order signifies implementation of "complex assembling and integration of aerospace manufacturing, which will create downstream opportunities in the Indian aviation supply chain," Airbus CEO Remi Maillard, President and Managing Director, Airbus India and South Asia said at a press event.

Remi Maillard

Thursday's contract is also among the orders that will enable Airbus to double its sourcing from India, which is valued at about $750 million every year. This is expected to rise to $1.5 billion over the next few years.

To a question on when Airbus plans a final assembly line for commercial aircraft given large orders from IndiGo and Air India, Mr. Maillard said Airbus provided more jobs and more value for India today than any Final Assembly Line (FAL) will achieve.

According to Dynamatic's Udayant Malhoutra only 15% of value generated from manufacturing an aircraft comes from a FAL.

Airbus recently announced a FAL for H125 helicopter for the private sector and in 2022 announced a FAL for C-295 transport aircraft for the Indian Air Force.

India biggest GitHub centre after U.S., says Microsoft's Nadella

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Microsoft Chairman and CEO Satya Nadella, who is on a nationwide sales tour for the company's Artificial Intelligence (AI) capabilities, said India is the fastest-growing market on GitHub, a Microsoft-owned software collaboration and innovation platform, with 13.2 million developers using the platform.

''India is expected to overtake the U.S as the largest developer community on GitHub by 2027," said Mr. Nadella adding that "the country also has the second-highest number of generative AI projects on GitHub after the United States."

Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella

Microsoft would bring its project to address the gender gap in the tech sector, "Code; Without Barriers" to India this month, Mr. Nadella added.

Be sensitive to needs of exporters: FinMin

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Banks told to offer services to exporters despite long route taken by ships amid Red Sea crisis

Financial Services Secretary Vivek Joshi has asked public sector banks and insurance companies to deal with sensitivity the cases of trade finance and insurance to exporters who are facing problems on account of the Red Sea crisis.

"In view of the Red Sea crisis, we have asked public sector banks and insurance companies to take into consideration the problem because ships are taking a longer route resulting in demand for higher trade finance and increase in insurance cost," he told PTI in an interview.

In such a situation, he said, banks should deal those cases with sensitivity and they should not adopt a straight-jacket and deny them their services because of a long route taken by ships due to the Red Sea crisis.

"The requirement of trade financing and insurance should be dealt by them with sensitivity," he added.

He also said that a high-level inter-ministerial committee headed by the Commerce Secretary is also meeting to take stock of the situation in this regard on Thursday.

जगद्गुरु रामानन्दाचार्य राजस्थान संस्कृत विश्वविद्यालय
नदबई, मालवीय-सूचना शिक्षा खेड़, जयपुर (राज.) - 302026, ई - मेल :- jrrsu@yahoo.com
वेबसाईट :- www.jrrsanskrituniversity.ac.in, टेलीफैक्स :- 0141-2850551-75

क्रमांक :- प.()/जरासविवि/पीएसएसटी/24/ दिनांक :-

शिक्षाशास्त्री (दो वर्षीय) एवं शास्त्री-शिक्षाशास्त्री (चार वर्षीय) पाठ्यक्रम में सत्र 2023-24 में प्रवेश हेतु प्रथम काउन्सलिंग आयोजन की सूचना

विश्वविद्यालय द्वारा शिक्षाशास्त्री (दो वर्षीय) एवं शास्त्री–शिक्षाशास्त्री पाठ्यक्रम (चार वर्षीय) सत्र 2023–24 में प्रवेश हेतु ऑनलाईन प्रथम काउन्सलिंग हेतु कार्यक्रम निम्नानुसार जारी किया जा रहा है–

1. पंजीयन शुल्क एवं महाविद्यालयों का चयन – दिनांक 07.02.2024 से 12.02.2024
2. पंजीयन शुल्क – राशि रूपये 5000/–
3. महाविद्यालय आवंटन की सूचना – दिनांक 15.02.2024
4. पाठ्यक्रम शुल्क – राशि रुपये 21930/–
5. आवंटित महाविद्यालय में रिपोर्टिंग एवं शुल्क जमा करने की दिनांक – दिनांक 15.02.2024 से 21.02.2024 तक

नोट –
1. उक्त विज्ञापन सम्बन्ध में विस्तृत विवरण वेबसाईट www.jrrsanskrituniversity.ac.in पर देखें।

कुलसचिव एवं समन्वयक
राज.संवाद/सी/23/12741 PSST, PSSST-2023-24

GOVERNMENT OF RAJASTHAN
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER AND PROJECT MANAGER
Watershed Cell cum Data Centre Jodhpur

S. No. F()/WDSC/PMKSY 2.0/Bids/2023-24/6715-30 Date : 31.01.2024

NOTICE INVITING BID
NIB No. - JODHPUR/10/ 2023-24

Bids for the execution of "Construction of various watershed development structures under PMKSY 2.0 Projects of estimated value as mentioned below are invited from interested bidders up to 11.02.2024, 6.00 PM. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in or https://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in) of the state, and (https://watershed.rajasthan.gov.in) departmental website.

S. No.	Bid No	Block	Cost, Rs. In Lakhs	UBN No.
1	AAU/01/10/01	Aau	267.64	WSC2324WSOB00694
2	AAU/01/10/02	Aau	268.60	WSC2324WSOB00695
3	BAP/02/10/03	Bapini	274.41	WSC2324WSOB00696
4	BAP/02/10/04	Bapini	75.21	WSC2324WSOB00697
5	DEC/03/10/05	Dechu	174.32	WSC2324WSOB00698
6	DEC/03/10/06	Dechu	274.66	WSC2324WSOB00699
7	GHA/04/10/07	Ghantiyali	267.21	WSC2324WSOB00700
8	GHA/04/10/08	Ghantiyali	263.94	WSC2324WSOB00701
9	LOH/05/10/09	Lohawat	274.75	WSC2324WSOB00702
10	MAN/06/10/10	Mandore	273.99	WSC2324WSOB00703
11	OSI/07/10/11	Osian	275.65	WSC2324WSOB00704
12	PHA/08/10/12	Phalodi	239.95	WSC2324WSOB00705
13	PHA/08/10/13	Phalodi	272.63	WSC2324WSOB00706

Superintending Engineer and Project Manager
DIPR/C/586/2024 Watershed Cell cum Data Centre Jodhpur

Office of the SE & PM, WCDC, Zila Parishad Dausa
File no.(1)/WCDC/DAU//2023-24/2286 Date: 02.02.2024

NOTICE INVITING BID

Bids for NRM Works under PMKSY 2.0 & Atal Bhujal Scheme in Block Baswa, Lalsot, Ramgarh Pachwara, Dausa & Nangal Rajawatan, District Dausa of estimated value INR of Each Projects as per below table, are invited from interested bidders. Other particulars of the bids may be visited on the procurement portal (https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in or https://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in/) of the state, and https://watershed.rajasthan.gov.in website.

S. No.	NIT No.	NIB No.	Name of Block	Estimated Value	UBN No.
1	15/2023-24	WSC2324AO374	Lalsot	22107764/-	WSC2324 WSOB00750
2	16/2023-24	WSC2324AO375	Lalsot	11129557/-	WSC2324 WSOB00752
3	17/2023-24	WSC2324AO378	Baswa	28181420/-	WSC2324 WSOB00757
4	18/2023-24	WSC2324AO379	Nangal Rajawatan	9387156/-	WSC2324 WSOB00759
5	19/2023-24	WSC2324AO380	Nangal Rajawatan	6755956/-	WSC2324 WSOB00765
6	20/2023-24	WSC2324AO381	Lalsot	7389139/-	WSC2324 WSOB00766
7	21/2023-24	WSC2324AO384	Ramgarh Pachwara	5701114/-	WSC2324 WSOB00777
8	22/2023-24	WSC2324AO385	Ramgarh Pachwara	1456816/-	WSC2324 WSOB0077
9	23/2023-24	WSC2324AO386	Baswa	894086/-	WSC2324 WSOB00779
10	24/2023-24	WSC2324AO387	Dausa	2368424/-	WSC2324 WSOB00780
11	25/2023-24	WSC2324AO388	Nangal Rajawatan	3256958/-	WSC2324 WSOB00781

(Harikesh Meena)
Superintending Engineer and Project Manager
DIPR/C/656/2024 Watershed Cell cum Data Centre Zila Parishad Dausa

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता एवं परियोजना प्रबंधक
वाटरशेड सेल कम डाटा सेन्टर जिला परिषद, जालोर

क्रमांक: एफ( )/निविदा/PMKSY-2.0/2023-24/1682 दिनांक: 01.02.2024

NOTCE INVITING BID
NIT NO 25-26/ 2024-25

Bids for NRM Works (Tanka, Amrat Sarovar, FARM Ponds) Under PMKSY-2 project area in Block Sanchore, Chitalwana (02 Package) of estimated Value INR 597.69 Lacs are invited from interested bidders Up to 2 00 PM 13.02.2024. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in or https://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in) of the state.
NIB NO.- WSC2324A0361, NIT NO- 25 UBN No:- WSC2324WSRC00728,
NIT NO- 25 UBN No:- WSC2324WSRC00729

(Arun Kumar Ameta)
DIPR/C/598/2024 SE & PMWCDC, ZILA PARISHAD, JALORE
DDO CODE NO. 28606

RAJASTHAN RAJYA VIDYUT PRASARAN NIGAM LIMITED
NOTICE INVITING BID NO.16 and E-17(2023-24)

On line bids for NIB NO.16 (2023-24) are here from interested bidders for S.No. 01 to 02 in office of the Executive Engineer (Civil) R.R.V.P.N. Bikaner, S. No. 03 to 04 in office of the Executive Engineer (Civil) R.R.V.P.N. Hanumangarh, & S. No. 05 in office of the Executive Engineer (Civil) R.R.V.P.N. Kolayat and bids for E-NIB NO.17 (2023-24) for S.No. 01 to 09 in office of the Executive Engineer (Civil) R.R.V.P.N. Bikaner, S.No. 10 to 16 in office of the Executive Engineer (Civil) R.R.V.P.N. Hanumangarh, S.No. 17 to 21 in office of the Executive Engineer (Civil) R.R.V.P.N, Ratangarh and S.No. 22 to 34 in office of the Executive Engineer (Civil) R.R.V.P.N, Kolayat . The details of NIB i.e. estimated cost, tender fee, earnest money date of tender download and submitting etc. given in procurement portal **http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.rajasthan.nic.in** & **www.rvpn.co.in**.

UBN - VPN2324WSOB02071, 1922, 1925, 2016, 2020
VPN2324WSOB02021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2056, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2065, 2072, 2073, 2077, 2083, 2084, 2085
VPN2324WSOB02086, 2087, 1933, 1936, 1947, 1948, 1949, 1950, 1951, 2017, 2018, 2019, VPN2324WLOB02060

Raj.Samwad/C/23/12745 RRVPN/TR-6088/2024 Superintending Engineer (Civil), Bikaner

Government of Kerala
Published Tenders from 05-02-2024 to 07-02-2024

Commisionerate of Land Revenue
Tender ID: 2024_CLR_655772_1 * Commissioner of Land Revenue * AMC OF COMPUTER PERIPHERALS * Closing Date: 19-Feb-2024 * PAC: Rs10000000

Directorate of Treasuries
Tender ID: 2024_DOT_653599_1 * DIRECTOR OF TREASURIES * Renewal of annual SW Subscription and Support of various IBM * Closing Date: 22-Feb-2024 * PAC: Rs11475648

Motor Vehicles Dept,Transport Commissionerate
Tender ID: 2024_MVD_655577_1 * Transport Commissioner * Establishment, Operation and Maintenance of Wireless Communi * Closing Date: 21-Feb-2024 * PAC: Rs80000000

Visit **https://etenders.kerala.gov.in** for more details.

Ro.No:05-07/Feb/2024/PRD/(N)13

JUNGLE LODGES AND RESORTS LIMITED
(A Govt. of Karnataka Undertaking)
(CIN-U55103KA1980SGC003775)
49, West Wing, Ground Floor, Khanija Bhavan, Race Course Road, Bengaluru - 560 001. Phone No.: 080-4055 4055/45
e-mail: **accounts@junglelodges.com** Website: **www.junglelodges.com**
No.: JLRL/2023-24/SE0008 Date: 05.02.2024

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Jungle Lodges and Resorts Limited invites tender for Hotel Operator to Operate and Maintain the Lalitha Mahal Palace Hotel, Mysuru. The details of tender documents are available in the website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** The last date for receipt of tender document **along with EMD amount of Rs. 25,00,000/-**(through e-Procurement portal) is **19.03.2024, 17.00 hours.**

For any further clarifications contact **91-8046010000/ 91-8068948777,** Email: **support@eprochelpdesk.com.**

Sd/- Senior General Manager

HONOURED

I am speechless and it's truly inspiring to be here: Vaishali

EMMANUAL YOGINI

"I thank *The Hindu* group and *Sportstar* for recognising my efforts. I feel truly honoured to be here. I am speechless... it's truly inspiring to be here," said R. Vaishali, who has qualified for the Candidates 2024. She was conferred with the Sportswoman of the year (individual) honour.

FOR A CAUSE

We have come a long way in creating an ecosystem: Anshul

RITU RAJ KONWAR

We started our journey in 2016 with the inauguration of the stadium by the PM. We have come a long way in putting up state-of-the-art infrastructure and a sports ecosystem... we now have residential facilities for our athletes — Anshul Garg, CEO, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, after winning the Sport for Social Good award.

DREAM COME TRUE

To be awarded by *Sportstar* is a pretty huge deal: relay team

EMMANUAL YOGINI

"It's really cool to be here. We've always reached out to *Sportstar* in our libraries as the first magazine. And to be awarded by them is a pretty huge deal for us because we are sitting among the greats India has seen. None of us ever imagined that we would be winning the award," said Nihal Joel William, a member of the team.

SURREAL

This will remain a core memory of mine, says archer Prathamesh

K.R. DEEPAK

"This will forever remain a core memory of mine. Being in the same room with all these heroes, and legends of the sporting world, I feel like I am standing in between tall, tall mountains, and I feel really tiny. But at the same time, it motivates me, and gives me the vision to create my own legacy," said Prathamesh Jawkar.

Shami, Bopanna and Sheetal headline Aces Awards

The sixth chapter of the *Sportstar* annual honours is a star-studded affair with achievers from across the spectrum of Indian able-bodied and para sports among those present

Amul Presents 'SPORTSTAR ACES 2024 INDIA TRIUMPHS #SSaces2024 Powered by IDFC FIRST Bank In association with IndianOil

Ashwin Achal
MUMBAI

India cricketer Mohammed Shami won the Sportsman of the year (Team Sports) honour at the *Sportstar* ACES Awards 2024 held at the Taj Mahal Palace here on Thursday.

Rohan Bopanna won the Ace of Aces award while Sheetal Devi took home two honours: *Sportstar* of the year (female) and the Moment of the year accolade.

Shami bagged 24 wickets to emerge as the top wicket-taker of the ODI World Cup 2023.

"I am from a place which has no facilities. My journey has hinged on luck, effort, and support from my family and friends. I am grateful for everything – even a person who has contributed one per cent to my success," Shami said.

India cricket team head coach Rahul Dravid was named 'Coach of the year'. Under Dravid's watch, India reached the final of the ODI men's Cricket World Cup 2023, and won the Asia Cup.

In a video message, Dravid said, "I am truly honoured to receive the award. As a coach, I don't score runs, I don't take catches or wickets.

"Basically, I'm relying on other people to make me look good. So I'd like to accept this award on behalf of the captain and the players who I have been privileged to work with over the last year."

Sunil Gavaskar, the ACES Awards jury chair, paid tribute to all the winners.

"With the kind of performances that we keep seeing in Indian sports, it gets more and more difficult to pick the award winners every year.

"Looking at videos and reading about the nominees give the jurors so much joy. It is like you are floating in air. I am sure that these incredible feats will serve as an inspiration for young sportspersons," Gavaskar said.

Recognition: Shami had bagged 24 wickets to emerge as the top wicket-taker of the ODI World Cup 2023. K.R. DEEPAK

N. Ram, Director (*The Hindu* Group Publishing Private Limited), Nirmala Lakshman, Chairperson (*The Hindu* Group Publishing Private Limited), and N. Murali, Director (*The Hindu* Group Publishing Private Limited) presented awards to winners.

The *Sportstar* Aces Awards is presented by Amul, powered by IDFC First Bank in association with Indian Oil.

The associate partners are LIC India, State Bank of India, Greyon Cosmetic, India Cements, United India Insurance, NTPC, Ramaiah University.

The realty partner is Casagrand, with online grocery partner Big Basket, colour partner Nippon Paint and education partner Christ University.

The co-sponsors are Pratiyogita Darpan, SSVM and PSG. Additionally, Signpost is the Digital OOH Partner, NDTV is the Broadcast Partner, Dailyhunt is the Online Streaming Partner and Wordswork is the PR Partner.

And the Aces awards winners are...

- Sportsman of the Year (Track and Field): **Men's Relay Team**
- Sportswoman of the Year (Track and Field): **Parul Chaudhary**
- Sportsman of the Year (Team Sports): **Hardik Singh, Mohammed Shami**
- Sportswoman of the Year (Team Sports): **Vandana Katariya**
- Sportsman of the Year (Individual): **Satwiksairaj Rankireddy, Chirag Shetty**
- Sportswoman of the Year (Individual): **Rameshbabu Vaishali, Sift Kaur Samra**
- Sportsman of the Year (Parasports): **Sumit Antil**
- Sportswoman of the Year (Parasports): **Thulasimathi Murugesan**
- Coach of the Year: **Rahul Dravid**
- Young Achiever of the Year (Male): **Prathamesh Samadhan Jawkar**
- Young Achiever of the Year (Female): **Tilottama Sen**
- Lifetime Achievement Award: **Chandu Borde, Karnam Malleswari**
- Sportstar of the Year (Male): **Neeraj Chopra**
- Sportstar of the Year (Female): **Sheetal Devi**
- National Team of the Year: **India Men's Cricket Team**
- Club/State Team of the Year: **Saurashtra Cricket Team**
- Moment of the Year: **Sheetal Devi** hits the bull's-eye
- International Icon: **Muttiah Muralitharan**
- Best State for the Promotion of Sport: **Tamil Nadu**
- Best PSU for the Promotion of Sport: **NTPC Ltd**
- Best Corporate for the Promotion of Sport: **Tata Steel Ltd.**
- Best University for the Promotion of Sport: **SRM Institute of Science and Technology**
- Sport for Social Good: **Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board**
- Ace of Aces Award: **Rohan Bopanna**

Double delight for para archer Sheetal Devi as she shines the brightest on a night of stars

P.K. Ajith Kumar
MUMBAI

Sheetal Devi caught the imagination of a country with her incredible show at the Asian Para Games last year. The 17-year-old archer hitting the bull's-eye with her feet at Hangzhou was undoubtedly one of the most unforgettable moments for Indian sport.

Not surprisingly, it won the *Sportstar* Aces Award for the Moment of the Year. She also took home the *Sportstar* of the Year (Female) Award.

Even among the galaxy of stars, including five-time World chess champion Viswanathan Anand, cricketers Sunil Gavaskar, Mohammed Shami, Chandu Borde and Pravin Amre, former track queen P.T. Usha, tennis aces Leander Paes and Rohan Bopanna, at the ball room of Taj Mahal hotel, Sheetal shone brightly. When she received the awards on the stage, she got some of the loudest cheers of the night.

Inspiring journey: Sheetal's coach Abhilasha narrates her ward's incredible story as Anand, right, Paes and *Sportstar* Editor Ayon Sengupta listen avidly. K.R. DEEPAK

Sheetal, who was born without upper limbs, recalled her inspiring journey after she grew up in a village in Jammu.

"I loved to go to school and I learnt to write with my legs," she said. "For me, my legs are my hands."

After receiving the International Icon Award, Sri Lankan cricket legend Muttiah Muralitharan also spoke about how inspiring she is.

Sheetal also got a pleasant surprise when she was presented with a painting of her by Anand's son Akhil. "You have inspired many people and Akhil was one of them," Anand said.

Momentous occasion

Basking in the limelight: N. Ram felicitates Leander Paes for making it to the Tennis Hall of Fame. (Right): The jury members with Nirmala Lakshman and Ayon Sengupta.
EMMANUAL YOGINI

Borde and Malleswari honoured with Lifetime Achievement Award

Sports Bureau
MUMBAI

Champion weightlifter Karnam Malleswari and former India cricketer Chandu Borde won the IDFC First Bank Lifetime Achievement Award at the *Sportstar* Aces Awards 2024 held at the Taj Mahal Palace here on Thursday.

Malleswari brought home a bronze medal at the 2000 Sydney Olympics. "I would like to dedicate this award to my husband (Rajesh Tyagi). In 1998, I had a back injury for six months after marriage. I thought my career was over. But my husband had a lot of belief in me. He said that I would recover and start performing again. At that time, I was at home, and there was no gym anywhere nearby. If I had ordered a set of barbells from Kolkata, that would have also taken a month to come.

"He went himself and got a 180-kg barbell set after travelling by train and taxi. I trained in the living area of our one-bedroom house for six months," Malleswari said.

"I like it when young sportspeople are inspired by my story and performances. I would like to congratulate all those going to the Paris Olympics and wish them best of luck. Bring back lots of medals," Malleswari said.

Distinguished careers: Borde and Malleswari receive their award from N. Ram and N. Murali of *The Hindu* group.
EMMANUAL YOGINI

Borde made 55 Test appearances and had a double of over 3,000 runs and 50 wickets. "This takes me back to when I was associated with a lot of great cricketers – Polly Umrigar, Sanjay Manjrekar, Sunil Gavaskar, Sachin Tendulkar, Kapil Dev, Nawab of Pataudi...," Borde, 89, said.

"When we selected the 1983 World Cup team, the selectors thought of players who could contribute more to the team. That is why we selected more all-rounders," Borde said.

Legendary actor Amitabh Bachchan, in a video message, paid an eloquent tribute to Borde while reminiscing about watching the stalwart play at the Ferozeshah Kotla in New Delhi.

‘After years of sacrifice, I’ve realised my dream’

It is very humbling for me to reach these heights from the beautiful land of Coorg, says tennis stalwart Bopanna, the recipient of the Ace of Aces honour

ACES AWARDS

Ashwin Achal
MUMBAI

Australian Open men’s doubles champion Rohan Bopanna won the Ace of Aces accolade at the *Sportstar* Aces Awards 2024 held at the Taj Mahal Palace here on Thursday.

Bopanna received the award from fellow tennis legend and Grand Slam champion Leander Paes.

“I always wished I could play doubles with Bopanna,” Paes said.

Bopanna recently became the oldest player, aged 43, to achieve the World No. 1 ranking in men’s doubles.

Great feeling: Bopanna receives the award from Viren Rasquinha, right, and L.V. Navaneeth, CEO, *The Hindu* Group, as Leander Paes applauds. K.R. DEEPAK

Wonderful athletes

“We are constantly travelling and playing tournaments, so it feels great to come here and meet all these wonderful athletes that India has produced.

“My goal was to win a men’s doubles Grand Slam and to reach the World No. 1 ranking. After years and years of sacrifice, I have finally realised my dream,” Bopanna said.

“It is very humbling for me to reach these heights from the beautiful land of Coorg. It was my parents who insisted that I train in an individual sport. That is when my tennis journey started, in Coorg. And now I have gone all the way across the world to win a Grand Slam in Melbourne,” Bopanna said.

He explained that his focus on adequate recovery changed the path of his career. “I started to focus on recovery at the end of 2019. My cartilages in the knee had fully worn out. I took around two or three painkillers a day. Doctor told me to try platelet-rich plasma injections. But just injections will not work; I had to do strengthening exercises. That’s when I discovered Iyengar Yoga.

“I was in extreme pain, so I gave it a try. Because of Iyengar Yoga, I can now play tennis without pain. I never thought this day will come,” Bopanna said.

Shining stars

One for posterity: (Clockwise from top left) Thulasimathi won the Sportswoman (Para sports) award while Tilottama received the Young achiever (female) honour. Parul bagged the Sportswoman (track and field) award and Jaydev Shah accepted the Club/State team of the Year award on behalf of the Saurashtra cricket team. RITU RAJ KONWAR, K.R. DEEPAK, EMMANUAL YOGINI

First-ever International Icon honour goes to spin wizard Muralitharan

P.K. Ajith Kumar
MUMBAI

There they were, together on the stage. Sunil Gavaskar, Leander Paes and Muttiah Muralitharan indeed presented a picture of sporting excellence.

Muralitharan was presented with the first-ever International Icon award at the *Sportstar* Aces Awards 2024 here on Thursday. There could not have been a more deserving star than the Sri Lankan spin legend, who took a stunning 800 Test wickets, for such an award.

“I am lucky to get the first award in this category, and I would like to thank *The Hindu* and *Sportstar* as well as the jury comprising legends,” he said. “The first-ever match I got to see featured the legends Sunil Gavaskar and Kapil Dev.”

Muralitharan narrated how much cricket meant for a country that was facing so many problems. “Sports was one thing that gave joy to all youngsters, and it made us forget other things,” he said. “That inspired me to take up sport and that is why I am here.”

Paes, the tennis great who shone in his role as a presenter, asked Muralitharan to name the toughest three batters he bowled to.

“Virender Sehwag was the toughest,” he said. “The way he played was different; he didn’t care. He just wanted to hit the ball. He wasn’t scared of getting out. That was why he was very dangerous. In Test cricket, when I started out, Brian Lara was the ultimate. Then there was Sachin Tendulkar. It took me about six years to take his wicket.”

Muralitharan also spoke highly of Sunil Gavaskar who took on the most fearsome fast bowlers without wearing helmets. “Gavaskar scored those hundreds in the West Indies in tough conditions against all those fast bowlers,” he said.

Also on the stage was Jayen Mehta, Managing Director, Amul.

One icon to another: Gavaskar recalled how Muralitharan used to pronounce Sehwag and Shoaib, leaving everyone in splits. RITU RAJ KONWAR

Tamil Nadu claims Best State for the promotion of sport award

Sports Bureau
MUMBAI

Tamil Nadu won the ‘Best State for the promotion of sport’ honour at the *Sportstar* ACES Awards 2024 held at the Taj Mahal Palace here on Thursday.

Tamil Nadu Minister of Youth Welfare and Sports Development, Udhayanidhi Stalin, accepted the award.

“I extend my sincere thanks to *The Hindu* and *Sportstar* for this prestigious award. I also thank the awards jury led by the esteemed Sunil Gavaskar for taking note of the various national and international sports tournaments hosted by Tamil Nadu.

“None of this would be possible without the efforts of our Chief Minister M.K. Stalin who believes that sports is an integral part of our curriculum,” Udhayanidhi said.

He then congratulated Maharashtra which emerged as the overall champion of the Khelo India Youth Games 2024 hosted by Tamil Nadu recently. Udhayanidhi also hailed the Tamil Nadu contingent for finishing as the runner-up.

With a sports budget of over ₹770 crore, Tamil Nadu invested heavily in national as well as international competitions in 2023. Some of the matches of the ICC ODI Men’s World Cup 2023, including India’s opener against Australia, were played at the M.A. Chidambaram Stadium in Chennai.

International hockey returned to Chennai after 2007 when it hosted the Men’s Asian Champions Trophy in August 2023.

India was crowned the champion after beating Malaysia in the final.

Proud moment: Udhayanidhi Stalin, along with IAS officers J. Meghanatha Reddy and Atulya Misra, collected the award from Somaya. RITU RAJ KONWAR

Aussies pip Pakistan to enter title clash

Press Trust of India
BENONI

Tom Straker’s six-wicket haul and Harry Dixon’s half-century inspired Australia to a tense one-wicket victory over brave Pakistan in the semifinal here on Thursday, setting up their ICC Under-19 World Cup final against defending champions India.

The summit clash will be played at the same venue on Sunday.

Pakistan made a below par 179, built around two half-centuries by Arafat Minhas (52) and Azan Awais (52) as it struggled against pacer Straker (six for 24).

Despite having their own struggles against spirited the Pakistan bowlers, the Aussies managed to reach 181 for nine in 49.1 overs to seal the final berth with Dixon (50, 75b, 5x4) and Oliver Peake (49, 75b, 3x4) leading the chase before Raf MacMillan (19 not out) and Callum Vidler (3 not out) dragged their team past the line in the final over.

While India will be playing its ninth title match, the Aussies are appearing in their sixth final.

India has won a record five titles while Australia has bagged three titles.

MacMillan... having the last laugh. GETTY IMAGES

In contrast to the lionhearted effort with the ball, Pakistan, earlier, had dished out a shaky effort with the bat after the Aussies won the toss and elected to field.

Pakistan had only one 50-plus partnership in its innings, a 54-run stand between Awais and Minhas for the sixth wicket.

The scores (semifinal):
Pakistan 179 in 48.5 overs (Azan Awais 52, Arafat Minhas 52, Tom Straker 6/24) lost to Australia 181/9 in 49.1 overs (Harry Dixon 50, Oliver Peake 49, Tom Campbell 25, Ali Raza 4/34).

Toss: Australia. **PoM:** Straker.

Australia won by 1 wicket.

Kudermetova wards off Sahaja’s challenge

MUMBAI OPEN

Kamesh Srinivasan
MUMBAI

Polina Kudermetova produced a sharp game midway through the third set to beat Sahaja Yamalapalli 1-6, 6-3, 7-5 in the pre-quarterfinals of the L&T Mumbai Open WTA tennis tournament at the CCI on Thursday.

The 20-year-old Russian played a high quality game to turn the match on its head.

Down 2-5 in the third set, Kudermetova stepped it up and went on a higher gear. Sahaja had beaten the top seed Kayla Day in the first round and had the confidence. Sahaja could not put a foot wrong in that first set, but her level dipped marginally in the second which was good enough for the wiry Russian to grab her chance.

Earlier in the evening, Rutuja Bhosale fought hard despite ankle injury to stretch eighth seed Katie Volynets of USA to three sets. Rutuja missed setpoints in the first set but came back strong in the second. However, the American, who had beaten Ankita Raina in straight sets in the first round, had the match in control in the decider, for a 7-6(8), 2-6, 6-1 victory.

Rutuja converted eight of 22 break points, and Katie converted eight of 16 break-points.

The 16-year-old Russian sensation withdrew from her quarterfinal match owing to ill-health, letting Storm Hunter of Australia move ahead with a walkover.

In doubles quarterfinals, Prarthana Thombare continued to play smart in partnership with Arianne Hartono of the Netherlands to cruise through.

Upping the ante: Kudermetova went on a higher gear after losing in the first set. KAMESH SRINIVASAN

Other results:
Second round: Moyuka Uchijima (Jpn) bt Dalma Galfi (Hun) 6-2, 6-1; Katie Volynets (USA) bt Rutuja Bhosale 7-6(8), 2-6, 6-1; Sohyun Park (Kor) bt Camilla Rosatello (Ita) 6-3, 5-7, 6-3. **Doubles (quarterfinals):** Arianne Hartono (Ned) & Prarthana Thombare bt Sapfo Sakellaridi (Gre) & Olivia Tjandramulia (Aus) 6-4, 6-2; Naiktha Bains (GBR) & Fanny Stollar (Hun) bt Anastasia Tikhonova & Moyuka Uchijima (Jpn) 6-2, 6-2.

Mukund rallies to battle past Echargui

CHENNAI OPEN

Nihit Sachdeva
CHENNAI

S. Mukund overcame a slow start to beat Moez Echargui 7-6(4), 6-3 to reach the quarterfinals of the Chennai Open ATP Challenger at the SDAT Stadium here on Thursday.

Mukund, a local wildcard, became the second Indian to reach the last-eight stage after Sumit Nagal, seeded second, won his round of 16 match earlier on Wednesday.

World No. 292 Echargui initially got a lot of free points courtesy of big first serves down the T. He took the early lead as Mukund dropped his serve in the third game of the opening set, netting a cross-court backhand.

However, the 31-year-old Tunisian also made numerous unforced errors, majorly from the forehand. That kept Mukund at a touching distance. The world No. 486 went on a run of 10 straight points, which included breaking Echargui’s serve in the eighth game.

Echargui managed to save a set point with an ace up the T and took the opener to tie-break. He began with a 4-1 lead before a pair of double faults started a series of Mukund winning the next six points to bag the opener.

Mukund broke Echargui in the first game of the set and kept his advantage despite being dragged into two long deuce games.

With the hopes of a comeback fading, Echargui dropped serve again in the ninth game to end the clash which lasted an hour and 51 minutes.

Mukund, 27, played 17 tournaments on the Challenger Tour last season but reached the quarterfinals only once. “It’s not that I felt low but I just wasn’t playing tennis at that level and I had doubts whether I could ever come back to being the best I could be. Also, I wasn’t enjoying myself,” he said.

“Everybody goes through the same. It’s only when you lock yourself, you feel the whole world is against you. I saw people still smiling and fighting in worse situations than mine and told myself that it’s probably not that bad,” he added.

Mukund will face Czechia’s Dalibor Svrcina on Friday for a place in the semifinals.

Stretched: India’s Mukund fought hard to beat Tunisia’s Echargui 7-6(4), 6-3. R. RAVINDRAN

The results:
Singles (Round of 16): [WC] S. Mukund bt. Moez Echargui (TUN) 7-6(4), 6-3; [3] Dalibor Svrcina (CZE) bt. Evgeny Donskoy (RUS) 6-2, 0-6, 6-2; Chun-Hsin Tseng (TPE) bt. [4] Ugo Blanchet (FRA) 6-0, 4-6, 6-2; Enrico Dalla Valle (ITA) bt. [6] Oriol Roca Batalla (ESP) 6-4, 7-6(2).

District Urban Development Cell, Deputy Commissioner Office, Hassan District.

Telephone No: 08172-234839 Email:pdhassandudc@gmail.com
No:AEE/DUDC/ELN-2023/1,2,3,4&5/2023-24 Dated:08.02.2024

: Tender Notification :

As per Karnataka transferency in public procurement act-1999 and rules 2000 here after tender called in two cover system through e-procurement portal for procure the Cataring service, Election material procurement, Printing items, Trasportation and Videography as directed by Chief Executive Officer, State Election Commission for Hassan Parlimentary Contituency Elections-2024. The details of tender is as below. Sl No.1)E-procurement Number: DMA/2023-24/ IND1188/Call-2 Details of task: Procuring Cataring serivces for Hassan Parlimentary Contituency Elections-2024 Tender amount (including GST) (Amount in lakhs): Rs. 176.25 lakhs 2)DMA/2023-24/ IND1192/Call-2 Details of task: Procuring Election matirials for Hassan Parlimentary Contituency Elections-2024 Tender amount (including GST) (Amount in lakhs): Rs.49.21 lakhs 3)DMA/2023-24/ IND1201/Call-2 Details of task: Procuring Printing serivces for Hassan Parlimentary Contituency Elections-2024 Tender amount (including GST) (Amount in lakhs): Rs.65.00 lakhs 4)DMA/2023-24/ SE1838/Call-2 Details of task: Procuring Trasportation serivces for Hassan Parlimentary Contituency Elections-2024 Tender amount (including GST) (Amount in lakhs): Rs.22.50 lakhs 5)DMA/2023-24/SE1840/Call-2 Details of task: Procuring Videography serivces for Hassan Parlimentary Contituency Elections-2024 Tender amount (including GST) (Amount in lakhs): Rs.24.00 lakhs Time table of tedner is as below Sl No.1)E-procurement Number: DMA/2023-24/ IND1188/Call-2 EMD Amount: Rs.4.41 lakhs 2)DMA/2023-24/ IND1192/Call-2 EMD Amount: Rs.1.24 lakhs 3)DMA/2023-24/ IND1201/Call-2 EMD Amount: Rs.1.62 lakhs 4)DMA/2023-24/ SE1838/Call-2 EMD Amount: Rs.0.565 lakhs 5)DMA/2023-24/ SE1840/Call-2 EMD Amount: Rs.0.60 lakhs Last date for submision of tender: 19.02.2024, 5-30 PM Tender opening date (Technical qualification bid): 21.02.2024 If any chances in the schedule date it will be published through e-procurement portal Interest eligible contractor can obtain additional information through tender document which is uploaded in e-procurement portal www.kppp.karnataka. gov.in. Any information regarding procurement can be obtained during office hours.

Sd/- Project Director, DUDC Hassan.

ವಾಸಾಸಂ೧/ಹಿಸನ/ಹಾಸನ/750/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿ/750/2023–24

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

GEM BID NO. GEM/2023/B/4389446 DT.06.02.2024

Divisional Railway Manager/Mechanical Branch/Chennai Division, Chennai-600 003 for and on behalf of the President of India invites ONLINE tenders for the following work as per tender notice given in the GeM Portal **www.gem.gov.in**. The tenderer(s) /contractor(s) intending to apply for e-tender for Mechanical works in Chennai division, need to get enrolled in the GeM portal **www.gem.gov.in** and only online tenders will be accepted.

Description: Pest Control, Fogging, Boric acid and Mosquito treatment in Railway passenger coaches at BBQ, GSN and TBM coaching depots with Rodent and Mosquito control at coaching depot premises for a period of 02 years Pest Control, Fogging, Boric acid and Mosquito treatment in Railway passenger coaches at BBQ, GSN and TBM coaching depots with Rodent and Mosquito control at coaching depot premises for a period of 02 years

Location	Advertised tender value	Earnest Money Deposit	Similar nature of work	Period of completion in Months
BBQ, GSN & TBM	64569312.66	472847	Applicable	24 Months

Tender closing date and time: **28.02.2024@ 19.00 Hrs.** Details of tender are given in e- portal **www.gem.gov.in.** For details bid submission please refer to web portal **www.gem.gov.in.**

ADME/MAS
Sr. Divi. Mech. Engineer / Chennai

Follow us on: twitter.com/GMSRailway

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE NO: SA-E23-2023-2024-W1-W3

Divisional Railway Manager/Electrical/Salem Division, Salem-5 for and on behalf of the President of India Invites E- Tender for the under mentioned works. Online bids only will be accepted. For detailed NIT, qualification criteria, bidding document, tender submission etc. can be viewed/downloaded from website portal **www.ireps.gov.in.**

E-Tender Notice No, Date and Name of Work	Details
1) SA-E23-2023-2024-W1 Dt 06.02.2024 Salem Division: Redevelopment of station building at Salem junction Second Entry Development-Electrical arrangements.	Approx. cost ₹ 50,81,724.00/- EMD - ₹ 1,01,600.00/- Completion Period - 6 Months.
2) SA-E23-2023-2024-W2 Dt 06.02.2024 Salem Division: Construction of dress changing room facility for women RPF staff,adjacent to the existing RPF post at Salem, Tiruppur, Podanur,Karur and RPF outpost at Electric Loco Shed Erode & S&T Workshop Podanur (6 nos)-Electrical arrangements.	Approx. cost ₹ 2,00,592.00/- EMD - ₹ 4,000.00/- Completion Period - 6 Months.
3) SA-E23-2023-2024-W3 Dt 06.02.2024 Salem Division:Construction of new rest house for Track Machines staff including women staff at Erode and Podanur-Electrical arrangements.	Approx. cost ₹ 8,54,210.00/- EMD - ₹ 17,100.00/- Completion Period - 6 Months.
For all the works Closing Time & Date	15.00hrs. on 08.03.2024
For all the works Bids Opening Time & Date	15.30hrs. on 08.03.2024

All Addendum/ Corrigendum, Time extension, Clarifications, etc. will be uploaded in the website portal **www.ireps.gov.in.** only and will not be published separately in Newspapers. Bidders should regularly visit website to keep themselves updated.

Divisional Railway Manager (Electrical) Salem

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SOUTHERN RAILWAY

CORRIGENDUM-2 EXTENSION OF LAST DATE OF BID SUBMISSION

With reference to notice inviting open tender No. NMRT/01/2024 published on 19.01.2024. and Corrigendum-1 issued on 25.01.2024, all prospective Bidders are hereby informed that the last date of bid submission has been extended as follows.

Particulars	Original date	Revised date
Bid submission closing date	09.02.2024	19.02.2024

Deputy Chief Commercial Manager/Passenger Services
E-mail: dyccmps@sr.railnet.gov.in
Mobile No: 9003160980

Follow us on: twitter.com/GMSRailway

CAUVERY NEERAVARI NIGAMA LIMITED

(A Govt. of Karnataka Enterprise)
Office of the Executive Engineer,
Hemavathy Canal Division,YEDIYUR -572 142.
Ph: 7338590199
E-mail ee.yediyur_cnnl@ka.gov.in

E-PROCUREMENT SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION NO.08/2023-24 Dt:31.01.2024
(Two Cover System) (Through e-procurement only)

On the behalf of the Managing Director, CNNL, Bangalore, the Executive Engineer, CNNL, Hemavathi Canal. Division, Yediyur the undersigned invites tender on item rate basis from contractors for 01 Work. The Maximum amount put to tender is **413.66 lakhs.** The Time Fixed for completion the works is 06 Months. EMD Amount and Processing fees should be paid through e-procurement. The last date for tender Queries/Clarifications is 03.02.2024 up to 4.00 pm, The last date for Receive of tenders along with EMD'S is **13.02.2024 up to 4:00 pm**. The technical bid will be opened on **14.02.2024** at 5.00 pm. For more information contact **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/-Executive engineer
Hemavathy canal division,
CNNL, Yediyur.

DIPR/AD-MDY/KSMCA/511/2023-24

Government of Karnataka

Office of Executive Engineer Panchayath Raj Engineering Division Channarayapattana

ಕಛೇರಿ ದೂರವಾಣಿ: 08176–252749

Short term tender notification no 23/2022-23 Dated:-06.02.2024

The tender are invited by the Executive Engineer, Panchayath Raj Engineering Division Channaraya pattana on be-half of the Governor of Karnataka through E-procurement portal for work of CONSTRUCTION OF ADDITIONAL CLASS ROOM FOR PU COLLEGE IN HIRISAVE VILLAGE (LL0018) IN HIRISAVE G.P IN CHANNARAYAPATTANA TALUK TENDER AMOUNT:-RS 118.90 LAKHS (which are sanctioned under the head of account of 2022-23th VIVEKA YOJANE The work details are available in the E-procurement total THE IMPORTANT DATES ARE AS FOLLOWS Last Date & Time for Tender Queries/Clarifications 22.02.2024 17.00 hours Last Date & Time for receipt of tenders 23.02.2024 17.00 hours Date & Time for Opening of Technical Bid 26.02.2024 11.00 hours Date & Time for Opening of Financial Bid After approval of Technical bid Note:- The right is reserved to reject or cancel the any or all tenders at any stage without assign any reason thereof

Sd/- Executive Engineer, PRE DIvisin, Channarayapattan.

ವಾಸಾಸಂ೧/ಹಿಸನ/ಹಾಸನ/744/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿ/747/2023–24

Sri. M.G.Hiremath, District and Sessions Judge (Retd)
Enquiry Officer, BBMP, Bangalore.
BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE

Enquiry No: UDD 236 MNU 2010 Bangalore.
Date: 22-10-2012

Date: 23.01.2024

Final Notice to appear for a Departmental Enquiry

You Sri.S Mohan, Assistant Executive Engineer (Retd), while working as Assistant Executive Engineer in Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike, Bangalore attempted to pay final bill amount to the Contractor for incomplete works done in Dasappa Maternity Hospital compound, and other incomplete works in Ward No-102 and there by attempted to cause financial Loss to Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike.

In this connection, Principal Secretary, Urban Development Department (BBMP), Vikasa Soudha, Dr. B.R Ambedkar Veedhi, Bangalore-560001 has initiated enquiry against you and entrusted the enquiry to the Enquiry Officer.

The Departmental Enquiry is fixed on **Date: 12-03-2024 at 11.00 a.m** in the Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike, Council Building, Room No.205, 1st Floor, N.R. Square, Bangalore-560002.

You are here by ordered to appear before the Enquiry Officer on the said date and time without fail.

Sd/-
(M.G. Hiremath)
District and Sessions Judge (Retd)
Enquiry Officer, BBMP, Bangalore.

MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

NEW DELHI DATED 17th JANUARY 2024
IInd Additional NOTIFICATION (NH-844)

NOTIFICATION Dated. 02.02.2024

S.O. 344 (E).-tn exercise of powers conferred by sub-section (1) of section 3A of the National Highways Act, 1956 (48 of 1956) (hereinafter referred to as the said Act), the Central Government, after being satisfied that for the public purpose. the land, the brief description of which is given in the Schedule below, is required for building (wideningifour laning with paved shoulder/four laning etc.,). maintenance. management and operation of NH 844 in the stretch of land from Km 0 to Km 10.4(Bengaluru Urban District) in the districtof Bangalore Urban in the state of KARNATAKA, hereby declares its intention to acquire such land.

Any person interested in the said land may, within twenty-one days from the date of publication of this notification in the Official Gazette, object to the use of such land for the aforesaid purpose under sub-section(I) of section 3C of the said Act.

Every such objection shall be made to the Competent Authority, namely, Special Land Acquisition Officer , Bengaluru Urban District (NH-844) in writing and shall set out the grounds thereof and the Cornpetent Authority shall give the objector an opportunity of being heard, either in person or by a legal practitioner, and rnay. after hearing all such objections and after making such further enquiry, if any, as the Competent Authority thinks necessary, by order, either allow or disal low the objections.

Any order made by the Competent Authority under sub-section (2) of section 3C of the said Act shall be final.

The land plans and other details of the land to be acquired under their notification are available and can be inspected by the interested person at the aforesaid office of the Competent Authority.

SCHEDULE

Brief Description of the land to be acquired with or without structures falling in the stretch of land from Km 0 to Km 10.4 of NH 844 (Bengaluru Urban District) in the district of Bengaluru Urban in the state of KARNATAKA.

Special Land Acquisition Officer
& Competent Authority,
NHAI, Hebbal, Bengaluru-24.

SALEM CITY MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

Roc.No. E3/12006/2021 **INVITATIONS FOR BIDS** Date: 07.02.2024

1. Request for Proposal For Selection of Construction Management and Supervision Consulting (CMSC) firm to assist Salem City Municipal Corporation in implementing Under Ground Sewerage System to uncovered Areas in Zone-1, Zone-2, Zone-3, & Zone-4 under AMURT-2.0 in Salem Corporation.
2. Bid document and other information available at **www.tntender.gov.in**, Tender document can be downloaded from the above website.
3. Date, time and Venue for Tender Procedures.
   Submission of bids - **23.02.2024 upto 3.00 P.M.**
   Opening of bids - **23.02.2024 at 3.30 P.M.**

COMMISSIONER,
SALEM CORPORATION.

DIPR/762/TENDER/2024

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA Mail ID :- sepwdsbp@rediffmail.com

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, NORTHERN (R&B) CIRCLE: SAMBALPUR
e - Procurement
BID IDENTIFICATION No CCENC(R AND B) /33/ 2023-24
No.675 Dtd.06.02.2024

1. The **Chief Construction Engineer, Northern (R&B) Circle, Sambalpur** on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites **Percentage Rate** bids in double cover system **in ONLINE MODE** for the construction of **Road Works and Building Works** as detailed in the DTCN from the eligible class of contractors.
2. No of works = **13 NOS (THIRTEEN) (ROAD WORK, BRIDGE WORK AND BUILDING WORKS)**
3. Tender Cost : **Rs.10,000/-**
4. Class of contractor : **"B" Class , "A" Class and "Special" Class.**
5. Date & Time of available in web site & receipt of Bids : From **13.02.2024 to 17.00 Hours of 27.02.2024.**
6. Date of opening of Technical Bid : **27.02.2024 at 18.00 Hours.**
7. The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website **www.tendersodisha.gov.in**.
8. Any corrigendum / Addendum will be displayed in the website **www.tendersodisha.gov.in**.

Chief Construction Engineer, Northern (R&B) Circle, Sambalpur.

B-1751 : OIPR-34035/11/0037/2324

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF,
WATER RESOURCES, ODISHA, BHUBANESWAR.
'e' Procurement Notice No.CEMKS 20 OF 2023-24

1. Name of the Work : **Raising & Strengthening the Hansua right embankment from RD 00 Km to 25.500 Km.**
2. Amount put to Tender : **Rs.14,53,61,207.00**
3. Bid Document Cost : **Rs.10,000.00** (online)
4. E.M.D. : **Rs.14,53,700.00**
5. Class of Contractor : **"A" Class & "Special" Class**
6. Period of Completion : **18 Calendar months**
7. Other details are as follows.

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender On-line for bidding From	To	Date of Opening of Technical Bid (Cover-I)
Chief Engineer & BM, Mahanadi Kathajodi System, Bhubaneswar	CEMKS JSP 04 OF 2023-24	12.02.2024 10.00 hrs	29.02.2024 17.00 hrs	01.03.2024 11.00 hrs

8. e-mail Id : **celmbbbsr@yahoo.co.in**

Further detail conditions can be seen from the Govt. website : **www.tendersodisha.gov.in**
The Corrigendum/cancellation of Tender , if any, will be uploaded and can be seen from the above website only.

Chief Engineer & Basin Manager,
Mahanadi Kathajodi System, Bhubaneswar

A-1461: OIPR-32252/11/00026/2324

Bhubaneswar Development Authority

Akash Shova Building, Sachivalaya Marg, Bhubaneswar, Odisha - 751001. Ph.+91-0674-2392801

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Bid Identification No.221/EM/BDA **Date: 06.02.2024**

Engineer Member, BDA on behalf of Bhubaneswar Development Authority, Bhubaneswar invites following item rate bids in double cover system in **ONLINE MODE** from eligible bidders as mentioned below:

Sr.	Particulars	Details
1.	Name of Work	Selection of Consulting Firm for providing "Project Management Consultancy (PMC) services for Development and Implementation of nature-based water Treatment solutions at the lake Zone I and Zone IV of the natural drainage Channel No 10, Bhubaneswar
2.	Cost of Bid Documents	INR 10,000.00 + 18% GST = INR 11,800.00 (Online Mode)
3.	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	INR 4,00,000.00 (Online Mode)
4.	Availability of Tender	From 08.02.2024 to 05.00 PM of 23.02.2024
5.	Last date and time of submission of Tender	02.00 PM of 22.02.2024
6.	Date and time of opening of Tender	03.00 PM of 22.02.2024
7	Place of opening of Tender	O/o - Engineer Member, BDA, Bhubaneswar.

Further details can be seen from the website: **https://tendersodisha.gov.in**. Any addendum / Corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website.

Engineer Member, BDA, Bhubaneswar.

CAD-4027 : OIPR-13033/11/0631/2324

Tel. 06766-258301(O), Email ID: se_nerwkjr@rediffmail.com

GOVT. OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER,
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE: KEONJHAR
Identification No. PMGSY Online NCB No.422
No. 603 // Date: 06-02-2024

1. Name of the work :- Repair / Maintenance of the Rural roads Constructed under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana in the District of Keonjhar.
2. Total No. of Package :- 14 (Fourteen) Nos. individual work.
3. Estimated Cost of individual package :- Rs.14.27 Crore (Approximately)
4. Period of completion :- 60 Calendar Months.
5. Other details :-

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	No. of Work	Availability of Tender On-line for bidding From	To
1	2	3	4	5
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Keonjhar	PMGSY Online NCB No.422	14 Nos.	15.02.2024 at 11.00 A.M	29.02.2024 Upto 5.00 P.M

● Further details can be seen from the website: www.pmgsytenders.gov.in

Sd/- Er.S.K.Mishra
Chief Construction Engineer, R.W. Circle, Keonjhar.

O-2462 : OIPR-25177/11/0064/2324

BANARAS LOCOMOTIVE WORKS, VARANASI - 221004

BID No. E-108/2023-24 Date : 02.02.2024

E-TENDERS

E-Tenders are invited for & behalf of the President of India for the supply of following items. Only E-offer will, be accepted for which vendors must have Class III Digital Signature and registration on IREPS. The details of tenders are in the following sequence **:- S. No., Tender No., (Due Date), Description and Quantity. S. No. 01.** 05231242 (22/02/24), Reversible Ratcheting Box PL No 72140150 , 25 Nos. **S. No. 02.** 05231260 (22/02/24), Copper Coated Low carbon PL No. 76114053, 20000, Kgs. **S. No. 03.** 05231246 (01/03/24) (i) Adjustable Spanner Length "8" PL No.72053689, 30, Nos. (ii) Adjustable Spanner Length "10" PL No.72053677, 30, Nos. **S. No. 04.** 05235131/C (06/03/24, Circuit breaker VL-250 , 01 No. **S. No. 05.** 05235263/A (06/03/24), Steel Wire Rope Sing, 04 Nos. **S. No. 06.** 10231925A, (29/02/2024), Developmental Tender for Clevis Assembly, to PL No. 16050186, 20 Nos. **S. No. 07.** 10231046C, (25/03/2024), Developmental Tender for Pin Piston, PL No. 16141441, 480 Nos. **S. No. 08.** 10223517C, (14/03/2024), Cast Turbo Inlet Scroll Assembly (Machined), to PL No. 16081481, 80 Nos. **S. No. 09.** 10231303, (15/03/2024), Kit Hardware - Fork Rood, to PL No. 16210542, 3054 Nos. **S. No. 10.** 03231474B (22/02/24), Auxiliary Compressor Hose, PL No. 29232703, 424 Nos. **S. No. 11.** 03231073A (22/02/24) Hose Kit for Sander Application, PL No. 29176682, 532 set. **S. No. 12**. 03224488 (26/02/24), Raw Edge Cogged V-Belt, PL No-11272697, 06 Nos. **S. No. 13**. 03231461C (26/02/24), Elbow, PL No-11329750, 08 Nos. **S. No. 14**. **Tender No :** 04241017 **Due Date :** (22/02/24) **Item :** Safety Sling, PL No. 29140201, **Quantity :** 457 sets. **S. No. 15**. **Tender No :** 04231076D (RA, Double bid system) **Due Date :** (26/02/24) **Item :** Driver Seat to PL No. 29171131, **Quantity :** 2549 Nos. **S. No. 16**. 06231868 (28/02/2024), TERMINAL BAR 110V DC as per Specn. CLW/ES/3/0046 to PL No. 29811004 Qty.1051 Nos. **S. No. 17**. 06230002B (06/03/2024), MAIN CIRCUIT BREAKER (VCB) WITH ITS CONNECTOR and 05% extra flexible reinforced rubber 27' long air hose pipe I/D 5/16" with 3/8" BSP. Female coupling fitting at both end as manufacturing spares. specn: CLW/ES/C-47/I to PL No. 29711046 Qty.323 Set. **S. No. 18**. 06231104A, (28/02/2024), MICROPROCESSOR BASED ELECTRONIC SPEED INDICATING, RECORDING SYSTEM and 01(ONE) EVALUATION SOFTWARE FOR EVERY 10(TEN) SETS OF SPM (WITHOUT MEMORY CARD READER UNIT & COMMUNICATION CABLE FOR MASTER TO SLAVE) FOR WAG-9 / WAP-7 & WAP-5 TYPE 3-PHASE LOCOMOTIVES. specn: ELRS/SPEC/SPM/0002 (Rev.4) to PL No. 29200040, Qty. 555 Set. **S. No. 19**. Bid No. E- **Tender No :** 07235469A **Due Date :** (11/03/24) **PL No. :** NON - STOCK, **Description :** Electric Hot Plate **Quantity :** 4 Nos. **S. No. 20** 08231116A, Open Tender, (06.03.2024) RING RETAINING, (PL No.19340059) Qty.- 1709 Nos. The details of above tenders are available on **https://www.blw.indianrailways.gov.in** and **https://www.ireps.gov.in., CORRIGENDUM NOTICE : S. No. 21**. **Tender No :** 08231086 **Bid Inv. No. :** E-98 **Existing Due Date :** (08/02/24) **Revised Due Date :** 22/02/2024 **S. No. 22**. **Bid No. :** E-92/2023-24 **Tender No. :** 04231899 **Due Date :** 31/01/24 **Revision :** 1 **Details of Correction :** 1) Due date : To be read as 15/02/2024 instead of 31/01/24. **S. No. 23**. **Bid No. :** E-92/2023-24 **Tender No. :** 04231900 **Due Date :** 31/01/24 **Revision :** 1 **Details of Correction :** 1) Due date : To be read as 15/02/2024 instead of 31/01/24. **Note :** All other terms and conditions of the tender will remain unchanged.

Principal Chief Material Manager

PR/BLW/S-115 /blwvaranasi Website: blw.indianrailways.gov.in

Karnataka Minorities Development Corporation Ltd.

(A Govt. of Karnataka Enterprise)
K.M.D.C. Bhavan, 2nd Floor, S.C. Road, Seshadripuram, Bengaluru-560020.
Ph: 080-22860999 e-mail: kmdc.ho.info@gmail.com

No: KMDC/Ten/P.Motor/2023-24 Date: 09.02.2024

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION FOR SUPPLY OF SUBMERSIBLE PUMPSETS AND OTHER ACCESSORIES AND INSTALLATION OF PUMPSETS FOR DRILLED BOREWELLS UNDER GANGA KALYANA SCHEME

E-Tender is invited from submersible pumpset manufacturing company for Supply, installation of Submersible pumpsets and other accessories for the 165 m.m. dia Irrigation Borewells drilled for Karnataka Minorities Development Corporation Limited, during 2023-24 under Ganga Kalyana Scheme.

Sl. No.	Packages	Districts	No.of Pump Motor and Accessories to be supplied	Estimated Cost (Rs.)	EMD 1.5% (Rs.)
1	1	Bangalore (R), Kolar & Chikkaballapur	141	96,18,495/-	1,44,277/-
2	2	Ramanagaram, Mandya & Chamarajanagar	86	95,57,407/-	1,43,361/-
3	3	Tumakuru & Chitradurga	98	1,07,77,630/-	1,61,664/-
4	4	Mysuru	108	1,04,75,913/-	1,57,139/-
5	5	Dakshina Kannada	210	2,22,90,498/-	3,34,357/-
6	6	Kalaburagi	154	1,39,68,676/-	2,09,530/-
7	7	Bidar	131	1,42,77,347/-	2,14,160/-
8	8	Belgaum	251	1,69,78,619/-	2,54,679/-
9	9	Raichur	92	93,92,004/-	1,40,880/-
10	10	Ballari	107	92,74,780/-	1,39,122/-
11	11	Haveri	100	86,61,071/-	1,29,916/-
12	12	Kodagu & Hassan	96	99,46,406/-	1,49,196/-
13	13	Davanagere & Chikkamagaluru	108	1,06,31,122/-	1,59,467/-
14	14	Shimoga & Udupi	125	83,31,830/-	1,24,977/-
15	15	Bagalkote & Vijayapura	170	97,52,601/-	1,46,289/-
16	16	Gadag, Yadgir & Koppal	149	1,30,75,446/-	1,96,132/-
17	17	Dharwad & Uttara Kannada	252	1,48,19,211/-	2,22,288/-
		Total	**2378**	**20,18,29,056/-**	**30,27,436/-**

For eligibility to participate in tender, tender submission, conditions, EMD, No. of pumpset to be supplied for each district and further details visit website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/#portal/portal-home.** Contact e-Procurement Helpline : 080-22864782 or **gky.kmdc@gmail.com**. Tel No: 080-22860999. Last date for submission of bids: **22.02.2024, 17.30 hrs.** Opening of Technical bid: **23.02.2024, 11.00 hrs.** and Opening of Financial bid: **29.02.2024, 11.00 hrs.** Place: Karnataka Minorities Development Corporation (Ltd.), KMDC Bhavan, 2nd Floor, Seshadripuram, Bengaluru - 560 020.

Sd/-
Administrator and Tender Inviting Authority.

DIPR/CP/3458/MAA/2023-24

CAUVERY NEERAVARI NIGAMA LIMITED

(A Govt. of Kanataka Enterprise)
The Office of Executive Engineer, No.4, HLBC Division, CNNL, Turuvekere. Tel. 08139-287353
E-Mail-eeturuvekeredivi4@gmail.com

E-Procurement Item rate Tender Notification No: 02/2022-23 Dated : 01.02.2024 'Two Cover System'

On behalf of the Managing Director CNNL, Banglore, Executive Engineer No.4, HLBC Division Turuvekere has invited Two cover TURN KEY and Item rate tender through e-Procurement from Contractors. Karnataka transparency act GO no FD9PCL2004 Dated 06-08-2005 and as per latest amendements, Registered in procurement cell Centre for e-governance Room no 141, 2nd gate M.S. Building, Bangalore-560001 KPWD/CPWD /ID/ any other Govt. organization and enrolled their name in CNNL.

Name of Work:-

1. Improvements to Road from Gungurumale road of Nonavinakere Hobli to kabbali Kshetra in Tiptur taluk coming under the atchkat of D–6 of NBC (Indent No : 756) EMD Amount : Rs.5,37,300/-

* Form fees as provided in E-Portal, Period for completion of work (Inclusive of monsoon period) 06 months. for Indent – 756, Eligible contractor catageory - II and above * Last date to submit tender online Dated: 05-02-2024 to 23-02-2024 (upto 4.00 PM) * Last date for any queries relating to process of bid clarification Dated: 09-02-2024 (upto 4.00 PM) * Pre bid meeting Dated: 12-02-2024 (11.00 am) Chief Engineer Hemavaty canal Zone Tumkur * Opening of Technical bid in E-Procurement on Dated: 26-02-2024 (after 4.01 PM), * Opening of Financial bid after approval of technical bid. For any further details please contact https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in/ and in office during working hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
No.4, HLBC Division,CNNL Turuvekere.

DIPR/TUM/522/KSMCA/2023-24

INBRIEF

Former Manchester United star Lingard joins FC Seoul

Former Manchester United and England midfielder Jesse Lingard said he wanted to "enjoy playing football again" after signing up for South Korea's FC Seoul on Thursday. The 31-year-old has been without a club since leaving Nottingham Forest at the end of his contract last summer. Lingard, who spent 22 years at United before leaving Old Trafford in 2022, said joining Seoul was a new challenge and he was "ready to accept it". "It's a new beginning for me, a new chapter in my career," he said.

TN, Punjab girls finish league stage with perfect records

Tamil Nadu and Punjab girls topped their groups with perfect records (4-0) as the league stage concluded in the 73rd junior National basketball championships in Bhubaneswar on Thursday. In the boys' category, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan were the group toppers, winning all their four matches.

The results:
Boys: Uttar Pradesh 58 (Harsh Dagar 22, Kunal Kumar Singh 12, Kushal Singh 13, Muhammad Kaif 11) bt Punjab 64 (Bhanu Pratap Sood 19, Japsanjam Singh 11, Sahibjit Singh 11); Chandigarh 86 (Sanju Gajbhiye 23, Vipul 22, Himanshu Hooda 18) bt Tamil Nadu 81 (Prahaladhan 36, Deepak 20); Rajasthan 115 (Akshit Hooda 36, Lokesh Kumar 20, Ishan Muhammad 15, Banti Choudhari 10) bt Andhra Pradesh 46 (Dwarkantha Reddy 14).
Girls: Uttar Pradesh 58 (Himanshi Kumari 13, Nancy Gupta 11, Anushika Chouhan 10) bt Haryana 56 (Anjali Suresh Kumar 23, Mannu Rajbir 13, Kafi Satpal 11); Maharashtra 82 (Sanika Phule 24, Ananya Bhavasar 19, Mansi Nimalkar 13) bt Kerala 50 (Alka 12); Tamil Nadu 73 (Sona Resalin 12, Sadhana Veronica 10, Juana Chrisolin 10) bt Chandigarh 54.

Shanaka left out of Sri Lanka's one-day squad

Former skipper Dasun Shanaka has been left out of Sri Lanka's 16-member ODI squad for its upcoming Afghanistan series. Along with Shanaka, batter Nuwanidu Fernando and leg-spinner Jeffrey Vandersay have also been left out of the squad.

The squad: Kusal Mendis (capt.), Charith Asalanka, Pathum Nissanka, Avishka Fernando, Sadeera Samarawickrama, Sahan Arachchige, Shevon Daniel, Janith Liyanage, Chamika Karunaratne, Maheesh Theekshana, Dilshan Madushanka, Dushmantha Chameera, Dunith Wellalage, Pramod Madushan, Akila Dananjaya and Wanindu Hasaranga.

Mitchell hopes to be fit for Australia Tests

Black Caps batter Daryl Mitchell will sit out the second Test with South Africa next week to be fit for the looming home series against Australia, New Zealand Cricket said on Thursday. The 32-year-old, who has hit five centuries in 31 Tests, will also miss all three T20 games against Australia this month ahead of the home two-Test series starting February 29. He needs more treatment for a foot injury that sidelined him for the home Twenty20 series win over Pakistan in January.

RANJI TROPHY SCHEDULE

Elite: Group A: Jharkhand vs. Haryana (Jamshedpur); Rajasthan vs. Saurashtra (Jaipur); Maharashtra vs. Vidarbha (Pune); Manipur vs. Services (Ahmedabad).
Group B: Assam vs. Bihar (Guwahati); Chhattisgarh vs. Mumbai (Raipur); Kerala vs. Bengal (Thumba); Andhra vs. Uttar Pradesh (Vizianagaram).
Group C: Tamil Nadu vs. Karnataka (Chennai); Punjab vs. Gujarat (Mohali); Railways vs. Goa (Surat); Chandigarh vs. Tripura (Chandigarh).
Group D: Odisha vs. Uttarakhand (Cuttack); Madhya Pradesh vs. Baroda (Indore); Himachal Pradesh vs. Delhi (Dharamshala); Pondicherry vs. Jammu & Kashmir (Puducherry).
Plate (semifinals): Hyderabad vs. Nagaland (Hyderabad); Meghalaya vs. Mizoram (Mangaldoi).

Old rivalry to be renewed as TN meets Karnataka in high-stakes clash

With the winner almost certain to advance to the knockout stage, it will be a fascinating battle between the hosts' spinners against the visitors' batters bolstered by Mayank and Padikkal's return; the neighbours are tied on top of the group with 21 points

RANJI TROPHY

S. Dipak Ragav
CHENNAI

In the age of Twenty 20 and franchise cricket, the Ranji Trophy might not get the same attention it deserves as the country's premier domestic tournament.

But every now and then, there is a buzz surrounding a Ranji encounter. On Friday, old rivalries will be renewed when Tamil Nadu takes on Karnataka in the penultimate match of Elite Group-C here at the M.A. Chidambaram Stadium.

The stakes can't be higher for both sides, as whoever comes out ahead at the end of this encounter will feel they have a foot in the knock-outs.

The neighbours are evenly matched with contrasting strengths and are tied on top of the group, having 21 points, with the hosts ahead on run quotient and two bonus points.

With the wind behind its sails after three consecutive outright wins, Tamil Nadu will look to bank on its spin strength again on a red-soil pitch at Chepauk. The team's top-order, led by N. Jagadeesan, Pradosh Ranjan Paul and B. Indrajith, is in good touch while left-arm spinners R. Sai Kishore and S. Ajith Ram have bowled the team to victories with able support from pacer Sandeep Warrier.

Battle-hardened
Meanwhile, Karnataka is battle-hardened after prevailing over Tripura and Railways in its last two matches, which were nail-biters. However, with an inexperienced spin attack, the visitors must rely on its pace bowling strength and solid batting depth to come out on top in spin-friendly conditions.

Boost
The team got a boost with the return of the in-form Devdutt Padikkal and skipper Mayank Agarwal. The latter has recovered from a freakish incident when he accidentally consumed toxic liquid that he mistook for water on a flight and missed the previous game against Railways.

The last time the two sides met in the Ranji Trophy, Karnataka got the better of TN in Dindigul by 26 runs in a match that saw fortunes swinging wildly until the last session on the final day.

A similar game would be befitting of a clash of the table-toppers.

Mainstay: Mayank will play a huge role as Karnataka relies on its batting to counter the spin trial in the offing. M. VEDHAN

Varun to pull out from Pro League hockey to seek legal recourse

Uthra Ganesan
BHUBANESWAR

Defender Varun Kumar has sought permission to withdraw from the FIH Pro League following the police complaint against him in Bengaluru.

The India player, who was with the national team here till a day before, has left the team hotel with his whereabouts uncertain. He had not trained with the rest of the squad for the past two days, ever since news broke of a 22-year old woman accusing him of sexually abusing her multiple times over the last few years on the pretext of marriage.

The 28-year old Tokyo Olympics bronze medallist has been charged under the stringent POCSO Act with the woman claiming she was 17 at the time.

Varun.
FILE PHOTO: K. MURALI KUMAR

Team members and officials have stayed away from the media so far, concentrating on their training instead.

But, it is learnt that Varun had gathered the team and staff on Tuesday to inform them about the case and his decision to withdraw from the squad for the time being. He left soon after without sharing any details.

"Through media reports I got to know that a false and frivolous case has been filed against me by a girl with whom I was in a relationship previously and the said case has culminated in a FIR in Bengaluru though I have not been contacted by any police official in this regard.

Misuse of power
"The girl comes from a very well-connected police background. She is misusing the State machinery to extort money out of me and to tarnish my reputation and image," the letter, sent to Hockey India president, chief coach Craig Fulton and HI secretary Bholanath Singh, states.

"Therefore in order to avail my legal remedies I would require urgent leave from the academy and furthermore given the circumstances, I will unfortunately not be in a position to participate in the Pro League," the letter, delivered through his legal counsels, adds.

Tirkey is currently in Rourkela and Bholanath in Ranchi.

Federation officials here have refused to comment on the issue claiming it was a "personal matter" out of competition and hence out of HI's purview.

While the identity of the girl has been kept secret, sources say the victim is a former volleyball player and was at the National Centre of Excellence in SAI, Bengaluru, where the Indian team holds its camps.

120 wrestlers named for National camps

Sports Bureau
KOLKATA

As many as 120 wrestlers – 40 each in men's freestyle, Greco Roman and women sections – have been selected to be part of the National coaching camps in the run-up to the Olympics.

The ad-hoc committee running the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) on Thursday picked the National medallists in each weight category (including non-Olympic weights) of the freestyle, Greco Roman and women's sections for the camps.

The men's camp will be held in Sonepat, while the women's camp will be at Patiala from February 9 until the Olympic Games.

The panel will decide on the participation of some elite wrestlers such as Ravi Dahiya, Bajrang Punia, Deepak Punia, Aman Sehrawat and Antim Panghal, the only Indian to earn an Olympic quota place so far, after getting to know about their plans, which may include overseas training.

The Asian Olympic qualifier will be held from April 19 to 21, while the World Olympic qualifier will be from May 9 to 12.

New dates announced
The postponed National under-15 and under-20 championships would be held at the Netaji Subhas National Institute of Sports, Patiala, from February 28 to March 5. The event was postponed following the state units' request to give them more time to prepare for the championships. According to the ad-hoc panel's estimate, 1200 to 1400 wrestlers from 18 to 20 units are expected to participate.

I feel on top of the world, says Neeraj

Recognition: Neeraj was honoured with a plaque by Switzerland Tourism. PTI

Press Trust of India
LAUSANNE

India's Olympic and world champion javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra has been honoured with a plaque at the famous Ice Palace at Jungfraujoch, known as the 'Top of Europe', in Switzerland.

Acknowledging Neeraj's remarkable accomplishments, Jungfraujoch welcomed the sports icon to unveil the commemorative plaque, Switzerland Tourism said in statement.

Neeraj donated one of his javelins and it has been placed alongside the plaque. He joins stars such as Roger Federer, and golfer Rory McIlroy, who also have such commemorative plaques at the Ice Palace.

Neeraj said: "I am humbled by the love and appreciation I have received in this country. To have a plaque installed here in this stunning Ice Palace was beyond my wildest dreams, yet here I am. I feel on top of the world, as I stand at the Top of Europe." Neeraj enthralled the attendees by showcasing his Javelin-throwing skills.

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Prajwal Dev receives Bengaluru Open wildcard

Karnataka tennis player S.D. Prajwal Dev, on Thursday, was handed a singles main draw wildcard for next week's DafaNews Bengaluru Open.

The World No.611 was a reserve in India's victorious squad at the Davis World Group I play-off tie against Pakistan. Earlier this week, the 27-year-old qualified for the main draw of the ongoing Chennai Open Challenger, a first in his career.

Tanya clinches two gold medals

India's S. Tanya, won two gold medals in the BIMSTEC aquatics championship in New Delhi on Wednesday. She clinched the 200m breaststroke gold in 2:42.94 seconds and the 200m Individual Medley in 2:28.16.

Sporting Club Bengaluru climbs to third spot

Sporting Club Bengaluru rose to third spot in I-League 2 (nine points, five matches) following a 2-1 victory over Sudeva Delhi FC on Thursday.

Tanya.

FC Bengaluru United, on the other hand, dropped down to No.2 (10 pts, five matches) after a 2-2 draw against United SC.

The results: Sporting Club Bengaluru 2 (Gautam 29, Thomyo 70) bt Sudeva Delhi FC 1 (Dangmei 17); FC Bengaluru United 2 (Chesterpaul 10, Mhatre 26) drew with United SC 2 (Harijan 35, Vanlalhriatpuia 54).

Niranjan and Kashif star for Presidency School

Centuries from Niranjan Ashok (132) and Kashif Ahmed Ali (136) helped Presidency School, RT Nagar thrash Jain Heritage School by 219 runs in a super league match of the BTR Shield U-14 (Group I) first division tournament.

The scores: St Joseph's BHS 120 in 36.5 overs (Ryan Aaron Minj 28, Paarth Madan 4/12) lost to Vidyashilp Academy 121/5 in 32.3 overs (Yuvaan Porwal 40, Panshul Sharma 30 n.o.).
Ebenezer IS 248/7 in 50 overs (Siddharth Rajesh Nair 45, Sai Teja Thokala 52, Viraaj Gaurav 50, Sanchit Lokesh Talanki 34 n.o., Surya S. Prasad 3/18) bt Max Muller HS 229/7 in 50 overs (Thushar Khande 71, Nitish Arya 67, Arsh 29, Agastya Khashu 5/44).
Presidency School, RT Nagar 353/5 in 50 overs (Niranjan Ashok 132, Kashif Ahmed Ali 136, D. Sanju Kumar 39) bt Jain Heritage School 134 in 46.4 overs (P. Samrat Aditya 42, P. Monish 3/17).
DPS, East 291/8 in 50 overs (Shahan Shadab 39, Abhinav Kulkarni 66, R. Nithin 63, Nikith Girish 39, Aalapkrishna Manikandan 27) bt DPS, South 100 in 31.2 overs (Aakash Suresh 55, Akshaj Kathuria 5/21).

Big win for St. Joseph's Indian High School

Vignesh, with an unbeaten 90, carried St. Joseph's Indian High School to a thumping nine-wicket win over Kensri School in the semifinals of the BTR Shield U-14 (Group I) second division tournament.

The scores (semifinals): Kensri School 151 in 43.1 overs (Dhruvesh 31) lost to St. Joseph's IHS 152/1 in 25.3 overs (Vignesh 90 n.o.).

Vidyaniketan School 69 in 33.3 overs (Nakka Manvesh Vasu 3/17) lost to Frank Anthony PS 70/2 in 13 overs (Mohammed Umair 25 n.o.).

Anjali does it for United FC Kodagu

Anjali scored a brace as United FC Kodagu defeated Technico Football Foundation 2-0 in the KSFA Women's A-division league here on Thursday.

The result: United FC Kodagu 2 (Anjali 7, 11) bt Technico Football Foundation 0.

LIVE TELECAST

Ranji Trophy: Jio Cinema App, 9.30 a.m.
Australia vs West Indies: 1st T20I, Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 1.30 p.m.
Sri Lanka vs Afghanistan: 1st ODI, Sony Sports Ten 5 (SD & HD) & LIV, 2.30 p.m.
ISL: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 7.30 p.m.
PKL: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 8 p.m.
Bundesliga: Sony Sports Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 1 a.m. (Saturday)
Serie A: Jio Cinema App, 1.15 a.m. (Saturday)
LaLiga: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 1.30 a.m. (Saturday)